STARS STRIPES.



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USAREUR earmarks **\$250K** for families

Many units in Germany, including V Corps, to benefit Page 6



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The many sides of Matt Damon



Energy bars: Healthy, or junk?

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Ne ws Tracker ... What's new with old news

World

Indonesia election: Retired Indonesian Gen. Wiranto filed complaints Thursday in Jakarta with the Supreme and Constitutional courts, alleging that widespread irregularities at the polls damaged his chances of victory in the coun-

try's first ever direct presidential election.

Most analysts don't expect the legal challenge to change the July 5 poll results.
Front-runner Susio Bambang Yudhoyono
finished with 33.58 percent of the vote, fol
lowed by President Megawat Sukarnoputri
with 26.29 percent and Wiranto with 22.21
percent. Yudhoyono and Megawati will compete in a run-off election Sept. 20.

Tailgating death: A German court in Berin on Thursday lifted the jail sentence of a former DaimlerChrysler engineer convicted of causing the death of a woman and her daughter with his high-speed tailgating, ruling that "he is no Rambo of the road" and deserves only probation. Fischer, 35, was convicted in February of

Fischer, 35, was convicted in February of negligent manslaughter and sentenced to 18 months in prison.

Rwanda genocide: A former Rwandan banker accused of participating in the country's 1994 genocide is being held in Brussels, Belgium, prosecutors said Thursday.

Ephrem Nkezabera, 52, was arrested June 21 in Brussels and is being held on charges of genocide and crimes against humanity, said a spokeswoman for the federal prosecutor's office.

Madrid bombings: Leaders of Spain's new Socialist government said Thursday there was never any evidence that Basque separatists were behind the Madrid bombings and accused the former government of withholding information of an Islamic link. "All the objective facts have led us to Is-

lamic terrorism and none to [the armed Basque separatist group] ETA since the March 11 investigation started until today," Interior Minister Jose Antonio Alonso told the commission investigating the blasts.

Seminary porm: A Vatican inspector investigating a Roman Catholic diocese where authorities uncovered a vast cache of child ponography at a seminary in Vienna has ordered the local bishop not to talk to media, Austrian radio reported Thursday. Klaus Kueng, appointed earlier this

Klaus Kueng, appointed earlier this month by Pope John Paul III, said he imposed the gag order to contain what he called "damage that has gone far beyond the St. Poelten Diocese." Bishop Kurt Krenn has angered many Austrians by dismissing the photos as part of a "boyish prank."

Parmalat settlement: Racked by a massive fraud scandal, Italian dairy giant Par-



Saddam's health: Deposed Iraqi dictator Saddam Hussein, shown in a July 1 courtroom appearance, is suffering from a chronic prostate infection and has refused to have a biopsy to prove he does not have cancer, Iraqi Human Rights Minister Bakhtiar Amin said in an interview Thursday on Al-Jazeera television. X-rays and blood tests carried out by U.S. mitary doctors did not show anything more serious than the infection, he added, and Saddam seemed to be in good health otherwise. Saddam, 67, has been held under U.S. detention at an undisclosed location in Iraq since his capture last December.

malat has agreed to make corporate reforms in a settlement with U.S. regulators that does not fine the company.

The Securities and Exchange Commission announced the settlement Wednesday with the insolvent company, which is being restructured.

Nation

Pub crawl ban: The Newport, R.I., City-Council on Wednesday unanimously approved an ordinance banning pub crawls. The proposal follows the death of a 21-year-old college student in a bus accident outside a Newport bar in May, Businesses with liquor licenses who violate the ordinance would face fines of up to \$1,000

Illinois Senate race: Republican Jack Ryan officially withdrew from the U.S. Senate race Thursday, nearly five weeks after a sex scandal forced him to abandon his candi-

and 30 days in jail.

His exit came a day after Republican leaders said they were tired of waiting for him to take the step and scheduled a meeting of the committee that will choose his replacement.

Jammed phone banks: A former New Hampshire state Republican Party official who tried to stop Democrats from getting to the polls two years ago could end up losing his own right to vote.

Chuck McGee, the party's former executive director, pleaded guilty Wednesday in Concord to jamming Democratic phone banks on Election Day 2002. If the sentence he receives Oct. 29 includes prison time, he won't be allowed to vote while behind bars.

Laci Peterson trial: Scott Peterson's lawyer wants a judge to either dismiss the murder charges against his client or declare a mistrial because he alleges a police investigator lied on the witness stand.

Mark Geragos maintains Modesto Detective Allen Brocchini fabricated part of his testimony to help prosecutors prove that Peterson killed his pregnant wife, Laci, in their Modesto, Calif., home and dumped her body into San Francisco Bay.

Judge Alfred A. Delucchi called a special hearing on Thursday for Geragos to explain why he should act in Peterson's favor.

Cosby remarks: Bill Cosby defended his controversial comments on blacks, adding that the music industry is "glorifying the wrong things" as he spoke about parenting and children at a college conference in Hilton Head S.C.

Cosby, 67, made headlines in May when he criticized some blacks for their grammar and accused them of squandering opportunities the civil rights movement gave them

ties the civil rights movement gave them.
"I'm going to keep on saying what I've been saying," he said Wednesday.

Stories and photo from The Associated Press

Stories and photo from The Associated Pres

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■ A story in Saturday's editions about a driving safety campaign in England had incorrect figures. Suffolk SafeCam in England has fixed speed cameras at eight sites in Suffolk County, England, and uses mobile cam-

eras at 52 other locations.

A story in Tuesday's editions about the

Corrections

22nd Marine Expeditionary Unit leaving Afghanistan contained the wrong rank of one of the Marines. He is Sgt. Maj. Tom Hall.

■ In a story that recently appeared in Stars

■ In a story that recently appeared in Stars and Stripes about Gulf War syndrome, The Associated Press erroneously attributed comments about a study into a possible cause for Gulf War syndrome to Joseph F. Collins, a researcher at VA Maryland Healthcare System and one of the study's authors.

It was Dr. John Feussner, the study's senior author, who said that bacterial infection was "not the smoking gun" and is "off the table at this point."

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Iraq postpones first national conference

U.N. requests delay to encourage wider participation by key groups

BY SABAH JERGES The Associated Press

BAQOUBA, Iraq - A national conference considered a crucial first step in the country's fledgling move toward democracy was postponed for two weeks, an organizer said Thursday, a day after a massive car bombing that killed 70 people

The conference had been due to start Saturday. But it has been plagued by difficulties before it

Key political groups have been promising to boycott, leaders in ethnically diverse areas have been unable to agree on delegates to send - and even before Wednesday's car bombing, officials have expressed worries the gathering will be a target for ter-

Abdul Halim al-Ruhaimi, one of the organizers, said that after U.N. requests, the Iraqis agreed to a postponement until mid-August to give officials time to speak with groups that had been reluctant to attend.

U.N. officials told The Associated Press they had repeatedly called on organizers to delay the conference for as long as a month to encourage wider participation and ensure it was properly pre-

Al-Ruhaimi denied the suicide

attack had any role in the decision to postpone the conference, which is to select a national assembly that will have some semi-parliamentary powers.

But the delay highlighted how Irag's new government has struggled to get momentum in the democratic process even as violence has shown no sign of easing.

An American soldier was killed Thursday in clashes between U.S. forces and insurgents in Hawiia a town about 150 miles north of the Iraqi capital, the military Two U.S. Marines were killed in clashes a day earlier in Iraq's western Anbar province. The deaths brought to at least 909 the number of U.S. personnel killed in Iraq since the war began.

A wave of kidnappings continued - with the 22nd truck driver taken hostage by insurgents determined to hinder reconstruction and drive out coalition forces.

The insurgent group of Jordania an militant Abu Musab al-Zargawi kidnapped the Somali truck driver and threatened to behead him in 48 hours if his Kuwaiti company doesn't stop working in Iraq, according to a videotape aired Thursday. The new abduction came a day after another militant group announced it had killed two Pakistani hostages.

Another militant group that kidnapped seven foreign truck drivers said Thursday it would kill



On Tuesday, Fouad Masoun informed that Iraq will delay holding a key national conference until the weekend during a news conference at Baghdad's Convention Center. On Thursday, organizers announced that the conference will be delayed again for at least two weeks to encourage key political groups to attend.

one of the hostages within 24 hours if its demands were not met. according to a video shown on Al-Arabiya television.

The group, calling itself "The Holders of the Black Banner," is holding three Kenyans, three Indians and an Egyptian and would begin beheading them last Saturday if the truck drivers' Kuwaiti employer did not cease business in Iraq and the hostages' countries did not withdraw all their cit-

Iraqi health officials, meanwhile, raised the death toll by two to 70 from Wednesday's suicide car blast which devastated a busy, shop-filled street Wednesday in Bagouba. The bomb targeted Iraqi men waiting outside a police station to sign up for the

A Polish soldier was killed and six wounded when a series of roadside bombs set off by remote control went off Thursday and showered their patrol with shrapnel on a road south of Baghdad, the Polish Defense Ministry said.

Poland sent troops in support of

the U.S.-led invasion of Iraq and now commands some 6 200 force es from 16 countries in south-central Iraq, including 2,400 of its drama in Iraq followed Wednes-

Key political

groups have

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Ukraine, meanwhile, is planning to reduce and eventually pull out been promising its 1.650 troops from Iraq non-U.S. contingent in the coun-

The war has long been unpopular in Ukraine, and the government faces upcoming elections. The sol diers' mandate was up for renewal in August, and President Leonid Kuchma had previously suggest-

ed that they would remain. A Defense Ministry spokes-

man, Vyacheslav Bolotniuk, said Ukraine is negotiating its plans with the United States and Poland, but he gave no time line, saving only, "There will be a decrease of troops. News of the latest hostage

day's announcement by a militant group calling itself the Islamic Army in Iraq that it had killed two Pakistani hostages because Pakistan was considering sending troops to the region

Pakistan's leaders and parlia-ment on Thursday condemned

the apparent killings, while the slain men's grieving families pleaded with their killers to release the bodies for prop-

"Those who have committed this crime have caused the greatest harm both to humanity and Islam," Pakistani President Gen.

U.S. deaths in Iraq Since May 1, 2003, when Pres-

As of Wednesday, 906 U.S. servicemembers have died since the beginning of military opera-tions in Iraq in March 2003, according to the Defense Department. Of those, 671 died as a result of hostile action and 235 died of nonhostile causes. The British military has re-

ported 60 deaths; Italy, 18; Spain, eight; Bulgaria and Po-land, six each; Ukraine, four; Slovakia, three; Thailand, two; Denmark, El Salvador, Estonia, Hungary, Latvia and the Netherlands have reported one death

ident Bush declared that major combat operations in Iraq had ended, 768 U.S. servicemembers have died - 562 as a result of hostile action and 206 of nonhostile causes The latest deaths reported by

U.S. Central Command: ■ One soldier was killed

Wednesday in an explosion in Taji, Iraq. Another was killed Tuesday in an explosion in Balad-Ruz, Iraq. The latest identifications re-

ported by the military: ■ No new identifications re

Top suspect in U.S. embassy bombings in Africa caught BY PAUL HAVEN on his head - was arrested Sun Hayyat said Ghailani was being killed more than 200 people, in-

The Associated Press

ISLAMABAD, Pakistan - Pakistan has arrested Ahmed Khalfan Ghailani, a Tanzanian al-Qaida suspect wanted by the United States in the dual 1998 hombings at U.S. embassies in Kenya and Tanzania, the interior minister said Friday.

Ghailani - who is on the FBI's list of 22 most wanted terrorists, with a reward of up to \$25 million

day in the eastern city of Guirat along with at least 15 others. Interior Minister Faisal Saleh Havvat

"This is a big success," Hayyat told Pakistan's Geo television network "He was arrested a few days ago in an operation by security agencies in Guirat." "As a result of our investiga-

tion, it became clear that he was a major figure wanted for the bomb-ings," Hayvat said. held at an undisclosed location in Pakistan, but indicated he might be turned over to U.S. authorities after investigations are completed. An intelligence official told The Associated Press he was being held at a facility in the eastern city of Lahore.

Ghailani, thought to be in his early 30s, was indicted on Dec. 16, 1998, in the Southern District of New York for his alleged role in the embassy bombings, which

cluding 12 Americans He is suspected of buying the

truck used as the vehicle bomb in the attack on the U.S. Embassy in Dar es Salaam, Tanzania, in which 12 people were killed.

He could face the death penalty if convicted of the charges, which include murder of U.S. nationals outside the States, conspiracy to murder U.S. nationals outside the States, and attack on a federal facility resulting in death.

Ghailani, who also goes by the names "Foopie," "Fupi" and "Ahmed the Tanzanian," was also one of seven wanted al-Qaida suspects that the FBI and Justice Department asked for help in finding in May to help avert a possible terror attack over the summer in the United States.

Pervez Musharraf said Thursday.

Pakistan had said earlier that some of the 16 suspects arrested Sunday were from Africa, but had not said whether they were linked to al-Oaida.

Afghanistan's U.S. suspect has media ties

BY FRANK GREVE Knight Ridder Newspapers

WASHINGTON - A lot of U.S. journalists saw a familiar face when soldier of fortune Jonathan Keith Idema turned up in an Afghanistan court last week, charged with kidnapping Afghans and detaining them at his private compound in central Kabul. the capital

Idema, 48, from Fayetteville, N.C., has had a long and sometimes questionable - association with the news business. In the process, he's led and misled reporters and consumers of their news

On the plus side, at least for Idema, were his ap pearances on TV programs as prestigious as CBS's "60 Minutes II" as an expert on al-Qaida and the Taliban. He also received a 2001 National Press Club award for online journalism.

On the downside was a hunger for publicity so keen that it took his implausible stories over the ton The latest, offered from prison last week via a U.S. freelance ally, bears this headline: "IDEMA: I STOPPED HUGE BOMB PLOT TO KILL GI'S IN AFGHANISTAN-Says He Used Loud Melissa Ethridge Music to Make Terrorist Confess.

Idema denies abusing Afghans. He says Defense Secretary Donald H. Rumsfeld knew of his activities in Afghanistan, where he faces up to 15 years in prison if convicted. He's already served three years in a North Carolina prison on criminal fraud charges brought in 1994.

That conviction led editors at U.S. News & World Report and "60 Minutes" to delete references to Idema from a prize-winning 1995 story about nuclear materials being smuggled out of Russia, even though Idema was the original tipster on the story.

Many other journalists were less skeptical of him. They sometimes referred to him as a Green Beret. even though Idema's three years of active-duty Spe-cial Forces experience ended more than 20 years

ago, according to the Defense Department.

Some were dazzled by his audacity or used him to gain access to exotic figures such as Afghan militia leaders. Others needed someone like Idema for their stories: an eager and presentable representative of the tight-lipped U.S. Special Operations community, or so he claimed, who was willing to talk and talk — on camera if asked.

Freelance TV cameraman Edward Caraballo of New York City, who was arrested and charged with Idema in Kabul, was in a "deep embedment" with mysterious Counter-Terrorist Group, Idema told reporters after their arrest

What Idema really did, beyond assisting reporters



mericans Edward Caraballo, left, Jonathan Keith Idema, center, and Brent Bennett appear in a Kabul, Afghanistan, courtroom last week. They are charged with assault, robbery and torture of Afghans.

and humanitarian aid deliveries in Afghanistan, is unclear. Caraballo was part of a TV movie team that had been struggling since 1994 to tell and sell Idema's life story, according to James Morris, a Califor-

nia freelance writer involved in the effort.

Another member of the team, freelance TV producer Gary Scurka, 51, was wounded by Taliban gunfire while Idema and Scurka were on patrol with Northern Alliance troops in Afghanistan in Novem-

Sometimes Idema had terrific material. In late 2001, he lured Dan Rather to Afghanistan with al-Qaida training films — authenticated by U.S. au-thorities — that Idema said he'd obtained through friends in the Northern Alliance

In other appearances, Idema pushed information that's since been discredited. In an MSNBC interview in February 2003, for ex-

ample, columnist Mike Barnicle asked Idema, then in Afghanistan, whether he'd come across links between Iraq and al-Qaida. Idema's response: "Oh, ab-

The Sept. 11 commission and congressional intelligence committees have since found otherwise

Jury has case in carjacking

Sergeant is accused of taking Iraqi sheik's SUV

The Associated Press

FORT CAMPBELL, Ky. — A military jury began deliberations Thursday in the case of an Army sergeant charged with carjacking a sheik's sports utility vehicle in

The soldier took the stand Wednesday, arguing he only participated because an officer told him to do it and because he did not think it was a criminal act.

"I was a soldier fulfilling my duties to my lieutenant within the rules of engagement," said Sgt 1st Class James Williams, 37, of

rural Westmoreland County, Va. Williams who is from the 101st Airborne Division, testified for about three hours in the second day of his court-martial. He is charged with armed robbery and willful dereliction of duty for allegedly allowing his soldiers to consume alcohol. If convicted, the father of two with 17 years of Army experience faces up to 15 years in prison.

The prosecution has main-tained that Williams' act of taking the SUV was illegal and that he knew it was a violation of the rules to allow alcohol to be consumed in Iraq. Prosecutors have argued that Williams helped orchestrate a cover-up story that the vehicle was abandoned.

The Army later paid Sheik Ahmed W. Al-Faisal \$32,000 for the SUV.

Williams said he only went along with the cover-up story be-cause the lieutenant, Bradley Pav-



taken, Willtestiiams fied that Pavlik threw a tantrum because two of the four pla-

toon's vehicles - including Pavlik's - were down, and he told squad leaders to find him a vehicle.

The opportunity arose later that day during a trip to the market to buy chicken when the SUV cut off another Humvee in a two-vehicle convoy Williams was in, he said. After about a five-minute chase, the SUV stopped, and the SUV was taken without force after the driver exited the vehicle, Williams said.

When they returned to the com-pound. Pavlik was "happy when we brought the vehicle back. He said, 'You guys finally got me a truck," Michael Harvey, a former Army specialist in the platoon, testified Wednesday.

But when Pavlik learned the men did not leave a receint as they had been instructed to do under the rules of engagement if a civilian vehicle was seized for military purposes, Pavlik told the men to say the SUV was found abandoned, Williams said.

Another soldier already has been convicted in the case and sentenced to prison. Pavlik faces a court-martial starting Aug. 9.



U.S. Army Sgt. 1st Class Tracy Perkins, left, and his attorney, Capt. Joshua Norris, leave a hearing Wednesday in Fort Carson, Colo., being held to determine whether Perkins and two other soldiers will be court-martialed. The three soldiers are charged with pushing two Iraqis into a river, where one of them drowned, in January,

Troops' story supported by comrades at Article 32 on alleged Iraq drowning

BY ROBERT WELLER The Associated Press

FORT CARSON, Colo. — A sec-ond soldier testified Thursday that he spotted two civilians on a riverbank not long after other soldiers are accused of forcing two Iraqis to jump into the Tigris River, killing

Staff Sgt. Michael Kay testified that he could tell through his night-vision goggles the men he saw on the bank were civilians. He said his gunner, Spc. Tony Fincher, had spotted them first.

and spotted them first.
"I told him it was probably the detainees," Kay said.
The Article 32 hearing that began Wednesday is to decide

whether the three defendants will face court-martial.

Two are charged with involun tary manslaughter in the alleged drowning, while the third faces

lesser charges. A man identified by family members in Iraq as Zaidoun Hassoun allegedly drowned near Samarra on Jan. 3 when he and a cousin were forced to jump in the river after being caught breaking a nighttime curfew.

Defense lawyers are trying to show that it is possible no one actu-ally drowned that night. They said insurgents have frequently faked deaths to get soldiers into trouble.

Fincher testified Wednesdaythat he did not see the men forced into the river, but later saw two civilians emerging from the river through thermal imaging equipment. He said investigators had asked him only if he saw Iraqis

being forced off a bridge. Sgt. Alexis Rincon, a member of the patrol Jan. 3, testified that none of the soldiers believed the two Iraqi men were in danger because one quickly made it to shore.

Sgt. 1st Class Tracy E. Perkins, 33, and Sgt. Reggie Martinez, 24, are charged with involuntary man slaughter, as is 1st Lt. Jack M. Saville, 24, whose Article 32 hearing is set for later. The third defendant in this week's hearing. Spec. Terry Bowman, is charged with assault for allegedly pushing the second man into the river. That man, a cousin of Hassoun named Marwan

Fadel Hassoun, 23, survived.

Marwan Hassoun has told The Associated Press said he tried to help his cousin swim to safety, only to lose his grip as the soldiers watched and laughed from above.

Among other witnesses planned by the defense were two men who have testified in the past about how the drug Lariam, given to troops headed to Iraq to prevent malaria, had resulted in attacks of rage. The military has stopped giving the drug to Iraqi-bound troops.

Soldiers keep their distance from Baghdad brew

BAGHDAD - U.S. soldiers stationed in the International Zone in Baghdad can sample almost everything on the menus of the small hamburger stands and Chirestaurants scattered

throughout the area The soldiers, who are not al-lowed to drink alcohol while deployed to Iraq, can look but not touch the coolers in the establishments that are stocked with

ice-cold beer At noon Tuesday, when the outdoor temperature was about 115 degrees, 1st Lt. James Arceo and Spc. Scott Smith, from the 118th Area Support Medical Battalion were at a restaurant enjoying cheeseburgers with soda and orange juice.

"We have to be ready - be alert here, Arceo said. "We have to be alert day and night, and that means no alcohol."

His co-worker said he isn't even tempted by the chilled brews

can beer.' Arceo said he could wait REPORTER'S until he left Iraq to have a **NOTEBOOK**

cold one "It's just not something we are allowed to

said. "I can stay away from it until I get back home. I think most people in the military will be able to resist the temptation."

Terminal changeover

Bagram Air Base's passenger terminal in Afghanistan seems to be adjusting well to a new set of operating rules, officials said in a recent news release.

The new procedures went into effect July 5 after the Air Force started running the terminal.

Soldiers, sailors, airmen, Marines and others looking to book a flight out of Bagram can now sign

"It's not any beer I would up four days before their scheddrink," Smith said. "I like Ameri-uled denarture, instead of the two

days were allowed before.

"People have to they are signing up for a destination not a particu-

lar flight," said Tech. Sgt. Scott Helmer, passenger terminal noncommissioned officer in charge, in the release. "We are not making reservations for flights leaving Bagram — people aren't guar-anteed a spot on any particular flight. People are still only travel ing as duty standby or space-available standby

Everyone flying needs to bring their ID card, and it's suggested they bring their orders, which should be stamped when signing

"About 24 hours before they want to leave, people should stop by the terminal again to see when



PHOTO BY CHERYL RANSFORD/Courtesy of the U.S. Arm

Passengers watch movies and relax in the refurbished passenger terminal at Bagram Air Base, Afghanistan, while waiting for flights.

they can anticipate leaving they can find out the show times incoming aircraft and see when they need to be here," said Helmer.

Officials hope to build a new terminal in the future, but in the

meantime will continue to help servicemembers in Bagram. A variety of reservation services are also available at the terminal. Stars and Stripes reporter Rick Emert contributed to this reporter. He can be reached in Baghdad at: emertr@mail.estripes.osd.mil

Afghanistan officials urge doctors group to stay on

BY STEPHEN GRAHAM The Associated Press

KABUL, Afghanistan - Me decins Sans Frontieres pressed ahead Thursday with its plan to leave Afghanistan because of deteriorating security, but offered hope to dismayed government officials that it could make a swift return.

The medical relief agency said Wednesday it was quitting be-cause the government failed to act against a warlord suspected in the June 2 slaughter of five of its staff, illustrating how violence has impeded humanitarian aid.

President Hamid Karzai said he regretted the group's decision and insisted his government was "fully committed" to investigat-"fully committed" to investigat-ing the killing. A U.N. spokesman said Thursday it also hoped MSF would return soon.

But Huub Verhagen, head of mission for the group's main French section, said Karzai's assurances were insufficient.

"We hope there will actually be a good follow-up" in the investigation, Verhagen said. "People have always expressed their willing." ness, but it never came to action

In another setback, MSF's apeal to the Taliban to recognize its neutrality fell on deaf ears

"Some NGOs like MSF say they are helping the Afghan people but behind they are supporting U.S. policy, they are spies,

Abdul Hakim Latifi, a purported Taliban spokesman, told AP We'll give them no guarantees.

Thursday, members of MSF's 80 foreign staff were unplugging computers in its main Kabul office and preparing to leave the country. The red-and-white logos of the agency, which had been in Afghanistan for 24 years, were already gone from the gate.

Many programs have already been handed to the government and other relief groups in a pullback to be completed next month.

A hospital in the capital, for instance, has passed to the health ministry with three months' sup-

The killing of five MSF staff three Europeans and two Afghans — in northwestern Badghis province was the deadliest for any international aid agency since the fall of the Taliban.

Latifi, the Taliban spokesman, claimed responsibility at the time. But MSF officials said Wednesday that the Afghan interior minister told them of "credible evidence" that a former local securitv chief ordered the slayings in protest at his ouster.

That the former official, who wasn't identified, was neither arrested nor denounced "sends a message that it is acceptable to kill aid workers," Kenny Gluck, MSF's director of operations, told reporters Wednesday.

Bamberg MP remembered

BY STEVE LIEWER Stars and Stripes

Hunting in the hollows of his native West Virginia elped Spc. Danny B. Daniels II cope with the loss of his mother in a car crash 13 years ago. His skill with a rifle earned him a job as a gunner when his unit left for Iraq

That's the job Daniels, 23, of the 630th Military Police Company, was doing July 20 when insur gents aimed small-arms fire at his convoy in Baghdad, then exploded a roadside bomb next to his vehi-

Three times in the past week — last Friday at his unit's home base of Bamberg, Germany; Saturday at the 630th MP base camp in Baghdad; and Thursday in his hometown of Varney, W.Va. — friends and family gathered to mourn Daniels.

"His tireless work ethic and good spirit motivat-ed all those around him," said Capt. Will McKannay, Daniels' company commander, in comments read at the Bamberg service, "He was, from the

very beginning, a role model for the team I wanted to cre-

"Bubby" Daniels grew up in the Appalachians, the coal country where West Virginia meets Kentucky. He enlisted in August 2000, shortly after graduating from Burch High

School Six months later, he joined the 630th MP Company's 1st Platoon in Bamberg. Earning

an "expert" rating on his weapons system, he deployed with the unit to Bad Aibling, Germany - a trip on which his platoon sergeant, Staff Sgt. Michael Curry, said Daniels figured out how to play compact discs over his vehi

"He became the DJ for the trip down and back," Curry recalled at last week's memorial service in Bamberg, "[Daniels] could take a normal boring day and make it interesting

In 2002. Daniels served with his unit for six months in Kosovo and deployed with it to Iraq in April. He was the first member of his unit killed in Irag, and the fifth soldier from Bamberg.

Earlier this week, Daniels' family cleared and repaired the steep, winding lane to the cemetery where he was to be buried after a bad thunderstorm toppled trees and damaged the road, according to his hometown newspaper, the Williamson Daily News. His grave had already been dug and a



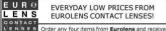
Spc. Danny B. Daniels II was killed July 20 in Iraq when insurgents attacked his convoy. Daniels was the first member of the 630th MP Company's 1st Platoon to die in Iraq, and the fifth from Bamberg.

tent erected for the service.

"He was a good patriot and a good son," his father, Danny B. Daniels Sr., told the paper. "I was proud of him. I want everybody to remember him. He died for his country. He died doing what he wanted to

Daniels is survived by his wife, Rilana; his father; his stepmother, Jenny; one brother; two sisters; and three grandparents.

E-mail Steve Liewer at: liewers@mail.estripes.osd.mil



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FRGs get \$250K windfall from USAREUR

BY TERRY BOYI

Stars and Strines

DARMSTADT, Germany - Family Readiness Groups around U.S. Army Europe are about to get a \$250,000 windfall that USAREUR officials say can be used for a variety of purposes.

"Really, what I hope is, those FRGs that had set aside money to do some-thing permanent" will use the appropriated funds for capital purchases which are heavily restricted, said Brig. Gen. Russell L. Frutiger, deputy chief of staff, personnel, at USAREUR headquarters in Heidelberg. That will free up the money they raised, which is subject to far fewer regulations

The \$250,000 earmarked for FRGs will be disbursed immediately across USAREUR to commanders of units that are deployed, are going to deploy or have been deployed. That includes most Germany-based units including V Corps and both forward-based divisions, the Wiesbaden-based 1st Armored Division and the 1st Infantry Division, based in Würzburg. The money is not related to the 1st AD's extension in Iraq, Frutiger said.

said. "We're hunting for more. ... It's been a tough year for money, so we're lucky to get this.'

The funds come from G-1 (personnel and resource management) budget savings, and must be spent by end of September, Frutiger said.

The \$250,000 breaks down to:

- \$6,000 for division FRGs
- \$2,000 for brigades FRGs. ■ \$1,000 for battalion FRGs.
- \$300 per separate company.
- FRG leaders do not have to apply for the funds, Frutiger said.

There are restrictions on what FRG leaders may do with the money. Because the money is appropriated funds, it can't be used for financial gain, which would exclude fund-rais-

The money may be used for equipment purchases such as computers or business software or for transportation to training or temporary-duty expenses, Frutiger said.

The money also may be used for banners or hall rentals for welcome-home parties, for example, but not for food or beverages, he said.

one of the largest infusions of money in her memory, said Dianne Hamilton, who was an FRG leader at both the company and battalion levels.

Army officials never meant for FRGs to be big money raisers, Hamilton said, and are limited to \$1,000 in nondesignated funds. However, restrictions on fund raising have eased in recent years.

Before, FRG leaders could do minor fund raising. But to raise funds outside of units, FRG members had to be sponsored by an official, private organization, with base support battalions' authorization and spending accountabili-

The requirement for private organizations as sponsors has been lifted for major fund raising, though facility managers do have to authorize fund-raisers and provide some oversight. Hamilton said

Army emphasis and reliance on FRGs to make families' lives better has grown in the last 10 or 15 years, she said.

E-mail Terry Boyd at: boydt@mail.estripes.osd.mil

Use of appropriated funds

While appropriated funds cannot be used to purchase all of the supplies, materials and other nice-to-have items, they can be used to purchase other authorized, high-cost items that drain Family Readiness Group coffers.

- The \$250,000 may be used for training, limited to paying for travel and training for an FRG leader who is acting as an expert, consultant or adviser for the U.S. government.
- Authorized purchases for FRGs include paper to print newsletters, large paper for welcome-home banners or other signs, art supplies to create wel-come-home banners, and dedicated office furniture and equipment. Office purchases allowed include computer equipment, furniture and supplies. The money may not be used for computer games. Commanders may pay the rental cost for halls
- for official welcome and reunion activities. However, appropriated funds may not be used for food, beverages, party supplies, party decorations, gifts, bands or entertainers. Area Support Group commanders may use appro-

priated funds to pay volunteers' childcare expenses rung up during volunteer services. Other commanders may pay childcare expenses for FRG volunteers under certain conditions.

- Terry Boyd

Multimillion-dollar project will upgrade Navy's computers

Plan will upgrade service's information highway

44 It will be more

robust, more

bandwidth.

more efficient.

The user

shouldn't see

as manu

BY SCOTT SCHONAUER Stars and Stripes

NAVAL STATION ROTA, Spain — A multimillion-dollar project to upgrade the Navy's overseas computer networks and install miles of fiber optic cable is expected to be a major resurfacing of the Navy's information

highway The Base Level Information Infrastructure

project has been the works since 2002 and will be completed by the end of the year. It is designed to offer faster, more seand efficient service for users

Ric Larsen, engineer project for the Space and Naval Warfare Systems Comin Rota, mand also known as SPAWAR, is helping install 2.000 computer jacks locations in 83 buildings at the naval station

"It will be more robust, more bandwidth, more efficient," Larsen said. "The user shouldn't see as

many bottlenecks In 2002, SPAWAR in San Diego issued a \$102 million contract to the Massachusetts-based General Dynamics to upgrade Navy networks in Europe, the Far East and Bahrain.

Ontions could drive the contract award to \$137.8 million, according to the initial release

Earlier this month, SPAWAR awarded a \$7.8 million modification contract not to exceed \$18.9 million to General Dynamics.

The contract includes such activities as conducting site surveys and testing works

The upgrades will occur in the States, United South Korea Spain, the United Kingdom, Japan, Diego Garcia and Singapore.

Dana Heidenescher, bottlenecks. the assistant officer in charge of the Ric Larsen Naval Computer and Telecommuni-

project engineer, Space and Naval cations Area Mas-Warfare Systems ter Station, said the system is so Command much better than in Rota, Spain the older system that the command

> will be able to redirect five information technicians to other areas. The command has 59 informa-

E-mail Scott Schonauer at

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Stars and Stripes thanks Sprint for sponsoring 20,000 copies of the July 27-30 edition of the newspaper to the troops serving in Afghanistan.



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ID system makes progress

Security upgrade for USÄREUR is set at more gates

BY KEVIN DOUGHERTY Stars and Strines

MANNHEIM. Germany Two gates got the thumbs-up Thursday, and seven more access points should join the list by the end of next week

While it may seem a long time in coming, U.S. Army Europe's new Installation Access Control System is actively being used at one-third of all entry gates, said Maj. Kevin Sickinger, project officer in Europe.

The rest of the gates - about 130 - should follow suit over the next six months, Sickinger said. By January, a person entering any Army installation in Europe, or any Air Force base in Germany, can expect to have his identification card verified by a gate guard with a hand-held scanner. "It just takes time," Sickinger

said Thursday of the IACS set-up

Sickinger, an Army police officer, spoke from an office in Mannheim set aside to coordinate the high-tech security effort. It's an effort that began before the 2001 terrorist attacks, but which gained momentum afterward.

Originally, USAREUR officials figured the program would become fully operational by the end of this summer. But Sickinger said the condition of some front gates, among other things, has slowed the process.

At some locations, Sickinger aid. "we were starting with phone booths and plywood build-

In some cases, the need to upgrade guardhouses to accommodate the system required specific contracts, which caused further delays. For a change, funding isn't a big problem. USAREUR still has more than \$3 million of an initial \$19 million outlay to get the system operational

The access system relies on in-



PHOTOS BY RAYMOND T. CONWAY/Stars and Strines

German army Pvt. Stefan Schulz scans an identification card Monday using the Installation Access Control System at the gate to Taylor Barracks in Mannheim, Germany.

formation previously supplied by the ID cardholder to electronically verify whether a person is permitted to enter an installation. Registrars take such information as name, unit and date of return from overseas as well as fingerprints

and a photo to build the database. Sickinger said a major issue in some communities is the registration process. Some people may

have registered as required last year, but after receiving a new ID card, for example, neglected to reregister.

Ben Dols, the IACS project man-ager in Schinnen. Netherlands, knowledged that registration is an issue in his area. Roughly half of the eligible ID cardholders have vet to register to be included in the system. That some-

times means delays Army installations in Europe and at Air Force bases at the front gate.

Otherwise, Dols said, the system is "working perfectly."

"I thought, in the beginning, we would have a lot of problems with the system, Dols said, "but the biggest problem we have is people who are not registered."

In a perfect world, Sickinger said, the information provided by a person to base officials when he first arrives in theater and receives his ID card should carry over to IACS. But it doesn't, at least not yet, he added.

Ultimately, the system is designed to enhance security, even if it means an extra step or two for authorized cardholders, Sickinger said

Army officials said people should contact their local provost marshal office to register in IACS. They also need to see the IACS officer when they get a new ID card or their DEROS changes.

www.hqusareur.army.mil/opm/ iacs/IACS.HTML has more infor-

E-mail Kevin Dougherty at: doughertyk@mail.estripes.osd.mil

Campbell Barracks construction

Construction of a new access control point at Gate 3 on Campbell Barracks in Heidelberg, Germany, will affect traffic and parking at the installation be ginning Monday.

A hand-held scanner will be used to verify IDs at

in Germany.

The existing access control point will be replaced with a new gate at the same location. The automatic teller machine near the gate has been relocated to the front of the Mark Twain Village shoppette. During construction, at least half of the parking

lot next to the search tent will be closed People who work on Campbell Barracks are enouraged to car pool or use public transportation. Construction of the gate is expected to be complete by Dec. 22

From staff reports

Medal to award AF's food-drop participants

BY LISA BURGESS Stars and Stripes

ARLINGTON, Va. - The Air Force has authorized the award of the Defense Department's Humanitarian Service Medal to airmen who assisted with airdrops of food to hungry Afghans during Operation Enduring

Hundreds of airmen assisted in packaging and delivering nearly 2.5 million rations during the mission, according to Master Sgt. Ronald Tull, a spokesman for the Air Force's Personnel Center at Randolph Air Force Base, Texas,

The Humanitarian Service Medal has been around since 1977, is awarded to members of the Armed Forces "who distinguish themselves by meritorious direct participation in any significant military act or operation of a humanitarian nature anproved by the Department of Defense

The awarding of the medal recognizes the food drop and other humanitarian operations that took place from Oct. 7, 2001, to May 31, 2002, Tull said in a Wednesday telephone inter-

To qualify for the medal, airmen must have been assigned or attached to a unit participating in the humanitarian efforts, and they must have directly participated in the relief actions, according to an Air Force message issued July 4.

The unit's activities must have affected locations within the land area, airspace, or waters of Afghanistan, Uzbekistan, Pakistan, Gulf of Oman, or the Arabian Sea north of 20 degrees latitude and west of 68 degrees longitude

Airmen who qualify

Airmen assigned or attached to the following units have been awarded the DOD Madal:

- The Combined Air Operations Center, Prince Sultan Air Base, Saudi Arabia
- The Regional Air Moveent Control Center, Al Udeid, Qatar
- The 437th Expeditionary Airlift Squadron, Ramstein Air Base, Germany ■ The 37th Airlift Squad-
- ron, Ramstein Air Base, Germany ■ The 351st Air Refueling
- Squadron, Royal Air Force Mildenhall, England ■ The 2nd Space Opera-
- tions Squadron, Falcon Air Force Base, Colo. ■ The 315th Airlift Wing,
- Charleston AFB, S.C. ■ The 62nd Airlift Wing, McChord AFB, Wash.
- The 446th Airlift Wing, McChord AFB, Wash.
- Source: U.S. Air Force

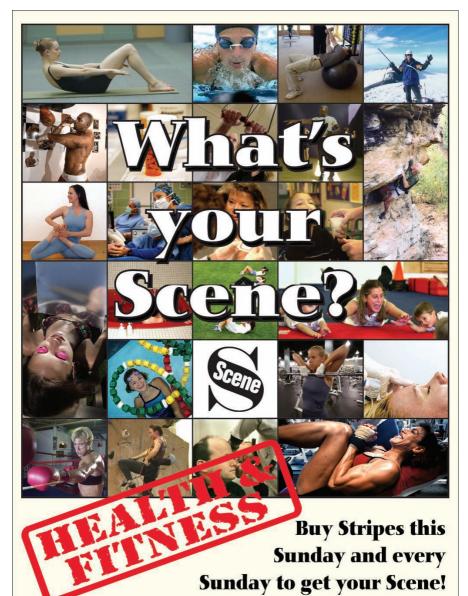
Air Force officials also may be awarding the medal to airmen who were working in U.S. or overseas units that are not actually in the places where the humanitarian relief was delivered but were supporting the OEF op-

Airmen who think they might qualify for the medal should go to their military personnel flight office and ask for assistance. Useful supporting documents to bring along include temporary duty (TDY) orders: letters, memos or certificates of appreciation; or decorations and citations that verify participation in the humanitarian ac-

E-mail Lisa Burgess at: burgessl@stripes.osd.mil







PAGE 10 • STARS AND STRIPES • Friday, July 30, 2004



Ramstein moves some cars out of long-term lot

BY JESSICA INIGO Stars and Stripes

Travelers who did not heed warning signs posted in the long-term parking lot outside of the Ramstein passenger terminal will be in for a surprise when they return home.

More than 20 vehicles were towed from the PAX terminal parking lot to make way for construction work, according to Harmon Chappell, program manager for the Rhein-Main Transition Program at Ramstein Air Base, Germany.

But car owners don't need to worry.

They can simply take a shuttle bus to the north side of base to a large parking lot near housing off of California Avenue where the cars were moved.

There are no tow or holding fees associated with the move, according to Capt. Darrell Hahn, the Rhein-Main Transition Program team chief with the 435th Civil Engineering Squadron at Ramstein

The German contractors working on the site towed the vehicles at no fee to expedite the major construction project for the Kaiserslautern Military Community Center being built.

All travelers will have to park in the alternate parking area until January, when a new 600-car parking garage is finished. The garage will service the terminal, as well as the US\$150 million Community Center under construction.

The center will include a shopping mall where the base exchange, new restaurants, movie theaters and other services will be consolidated.

Travelers who make it back to Ramstein and find their vehicle missing should ask the information center in the terminal for details on the shuttle service and for a free map of the location.

E-mail Jessica Inigo at: inigoi@mail.estripes.osd.mil

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Left: Cars sit in the parking lot outside the air terminal at Ramstein Air Base, Germany. Officials had to move about 20 cars from a nearby long-term parking lot in the area to make way for construction crews who are working on a new \$150 million Kaiserslautern Military Community Center, Far left: Clearing and preparing the site of the future center is well under way. RAY CONWAY/Stars and Strip



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IN THE STATES

Kerry to accept nomination

BY DARLENE SUPERVILLE The Associated Press

BOSTON - John Kerry lays claim to the Democratic presidential nomination Thursday night,

ment to have a conversation with Americans and convince them can protect them from terrorism prove their

than Presi-

dent Bush



In a curtain raiser, running mate John Edwards praised Vietnam and now ready to pro-tect the country in the age of ter-

"He wants to serve you - your cause is his cause," Edwards said Wednesday night as a parade of Democrats tried to focus voters' attention on Kerry's qualifica-

tions to be commander in chief Edwards was out early Thursday trying to swell the momentum for Kerry's speech. He had breakfast with delegates from Wyoming, Alabama and his home state of North Carolina, thanking them for their chants of support the night before.

The Massachusetts senator watched from his Beacon Hill home as Democrats formally nominated him for the presidency in a boisterous, late-night roll See related stories on Page 12

call Wednesday. Ohio put him over the top, just as he hopes it will on Nov. 2

Polls now show a tight race he tween Kerry and Bush. In a sign of the tough fight to come, the president taped new TV commercials, with his Texas ranch as the backdrop, in preparation for the resumption of a campaign ad war next month. The Democratic Party also is preparing \$6 million in ads for launch this weekend.

Hours after the final gavel at the convention. Kerry will begin hitting every key state on a two-week cross country trip by train, bus and boat.

When Kerry, 60, takes the podium to deliver the closing speech unified party convention, he'll aim to tell Americans who he is, what he seeks to do and why he should be president. He is sa to be planning to break through his New England reserve to reveal more of himself

Also speaking is Jim Rass-mann, an Army Special Forces lieutenant whose life Kerry saved in Vietnam

Delegates gathered in the Fleet-Center, the convention site, also will see a short biographical film portraying Kerry as a decorated Vietnam War hero and devoted husband and father — not as the wealthy, 20-year Senate veteran with a patrician's airs some see

Edwards was expected to be formally nominated as vice president earlier Thursday.



The Edwards family, from left, Cate, Jack, Elizabeth, John, and Emma Claire, stand on stage after John Edwards spoke to delegates Wednesday at the Democratic National Convention in Boston.

pledging that he and presidential color of your skin is." Before Edwards assumed the

Edwards bids to help

build 'one America'

running mate John Kerry will work hard to eliminate what he calls "two different Americas." one for the rich and one for everyone else. "It doesn't have to be that way.

By TOM RAUM

The Associated Press

BOSTON - John Edwards is

Edwards said in his address to the Democratic National Convention. "We must build one America."

Edwards' prime-time speech Wednesday night reprised a popular theme from his unsuccessful presidential bid this year. The freshman senator from

North Carolina, who amassed a personal fortune as a plaintiff's trial lawyer, told delegates that he saw his own life as the embodiment of the American dream and that all people should have the same opportunities.

In his convention remarks, Edwards recalled his modest upbringing in Carolina textile mill towns. "I have had such incredible opportunities in my life," he said. "I was blessed to be the first person in my family to go to col-lege. I worked my way through, and I had opportunities beyond my wildest dreams.

"And the heart of this campaign - your campaign, our campaign — is to make sure all Americans have exactly the same kind of opportunities that I had no matter where you live, no matter who your family is, no matter what the

stage, a collection of retired military generals and admirals appeared Wednesday evening to show their support for Kerry's candidacy.

While some polls show Kerry must work to convince voters he could lead a stronger war on terrorism, the presence of retired top-ranking military officials underscored the opportunities for

"I am here as an old soldier and a new Democrat," declared re-tired Gen. John Shalikashvili, the chairman of the Joint Chiefs of Staff during the Clinton administration who also served as the supreme allied commander in Eu-

words, similar to those Kerry has used while campaigning, carried the weight of the four

stars that once rested on his shoul-To an attentive crowd, he declared: "I know about the horror of war and thus join with others like John Kerry in believing that we must go to war only when all other efforts to resolve the threat to us have been exhausted."

Democrats made the event a family affair. His parents, Wallace and Bobbie Edwards, were there. He was introduced by his wife, Elizabeth, who in turn was introduced by daughter Cate, 22, Their two younger children — Emma Claire, 6, and Jack, 4, joined their parents on the podium after the speech.

Edwards, 51, saw his nationally televised speech as an opportunity to introduce himself and Kerry to millions of Americans, many of whom don't know much about either Democrat. It was mostly upbeat, but while

he made no mention of Bush or Vice President Dick Cheney, he did slip in some pointed criticism of the Republican campaign "What have we seen? Relent-

less negative attacks against John," Edwards said of his run-

The Chicago Tribune contributed to this

Rep. Porter Goss, R-Fla., retiring chairman of the House

Intelligence Committee and a candidate to head the CIA, said it's tough to move quickly on such an issue

mended creating a Cabi-net-level national intelligence director to coordinate the work of the 15 agencies involved and their estimated \$40 billion budget.

counterterrorism center to fos-ter joint planning by those agencies, and more powerful congressional oversight com-

Estimated foot of rain drenches parts of Texas

By JAY JORDEN

The Associated Press

DALLAS - An estimated foot of rain fell during fierce storms overnight in parts of North Texas flooding homes and highways and knocking out power to thousands. One man died in a weather-related wreck that toppled power lines onto his vehicle and cut power to

Southern Dallas County was especially hard hit by flooding, with 175 to 200 homes damaged by high water in the suburb of Lan-

Some areas of South Dallas County received up to 13 inches of rain, said National Weather Service forecaster Bob Carle

In Southeast Dallas County, a railroad trestle was washed out by strong waters. The Union Pacific track remained in place, but a 50-foot stretch of track no longer had soil underneath Authorities received more than

80 calls for high-water rescues in South Dallas County, said Sgt. Don Peritz, a spokesman for the Dallas County Sheriff's Office. It was unclear how many people were rescued. Parts of Interstates 20, 35 and 45 were closed for a time by high water.

About 5.000 TXU Electric Delivery customers remained without power by mid-morning. An estimated 45,000 were without power at the peak of the storms, said spokeswoman Eliza Ander-

Wind gusts of 58 mph were measured at Alliance Airport. and trees were uprooted in Lewisville and elsewhere. Flights were delayed at Dallas-Fort Worth International Airport.

Congress to act on Sept. 11 findings

BY ALAN FRAM The Associated Press

WASHINGTON - Congress is eager to show voters it's acting on the Sept. 11 commission's call for overhauling intelligence agencies, but turf fights, partisan rivalries and the task's sheer complexity are sure to slow lawmakers'

work

Reflecting the momentum for change sparked last week by the commission's widely acclaimed final report, at least nine committees are planning more than 15 hearings in what is normally a sleepy August on Capitol Hill. The first is Friday, when the Senate Governmental Affairs Committee hears from commission chair man Thomas Kean, a Republican, and his Democratic deputv. Lee Hamilton

Indeed, with White House and congressional control at stake in November — and 9/11 panel members and relatives of attack victims promising to publicly lobby for change - it ould be tough for President Bush and lawmakers to do nothing

Underscoring the political pressures, Democratic presidential nominee Sen. John Kerry has said that commission suggestions for a national intelligence director and an overarching counterterrorism center in the White House should be adopted immediate

Bush is expected to approve executive orders making some changes in days

House Minority Leader Nancy Pelosi, D-Calif., has called House Democrats to an Aug. 10 meeting with commission members

House leaders say they want bills ready in September, Senate leaders by Oct. 1. But they could meet stiff resistance from the CIA, Pentagon and other agencies, and lawmakers of both parties who stand to lose power

The commission recom-

It also proposed a national

GOP says Kerry not able to lead during wartime

BY WILL LESTER The Associated Press

BOSTON — The Republicans' message this week is a one-note chorus — John F. Kerry and the Democrats aren't up to the job of protecting the country from ter-

Polls suggest President Bush is vulnerable in many areas but is more trusted on national security. Democrats are replying with images of Vietnam War hero John Kerry surrounded by fellow veterans and a convention them of a stronger America under Kerry.

Republicans released an 11-minute video Wednesday that focused on Kerry's evolving positions on Iraq over the last two years in the face of an intense struggle for the nomination and postwar problems in Iraq.

After showing the video to the news media, Republican National Committee Chairman Ed Gillespie said Wednesday: "His own words completely refute the notion that he is a strong leader. We may end up updating this Thursday night after the senator tries to explain his position on Iraq again."

Democrats responded immediately and forcefully, showing up outside the GOP war room armed with their own video about Bush.

They said Kerry's position on Iraq is not as simple as the Republicans would have voters think. Inside the GOP war room, other high-profile officials pum-

meled Kerry as unfit to lead in wartime. Former New York City Police Commissioner Bernard Kerik defended Bush's decision to go to war in Afghanistan and then Iraq after the attacks on America by

ai-Qaida.

The Kerry campaign repeatedly has highlighted the senator's service in Vietnam and the medals he won for valiant service as a sign of his strength in times of



Invited French envoys have quietly joined the crowds at the Democratic Convention in Boston.

French envoys trying to keep their DNC attendance quiet

BY JAMEY KEATEN

PARIS — Shhhh! Don't tell anyone, but some French politicians are attending the Democratic National Convention — and are determined to keep a low profile.

These days, with France a four-letter word for many Americans after its vocal opposition to the Iraq war, the French connections of Democratic presidential

hopeful John Kerry aren't a plus. French invitees to the convention in Boston, as observers, insisted Wednesday that they wanted to stay in the shadows and were eager to avoid undue attention. Pierre Moscovici, a former government minister who heads the French Socialist delegation, expressed strong backing for Kerry but said he did not want to be a distraction

Others hold their tongues less, and insist the November elections are pivotal not just for America,

but the world.
Socialist lawmaker Julien
Dray, quoted Tuesday in daily Le
Parisien, said the contest
amounts to a "world election"
that could end "the terrible ordeal that President Bush's term

has been."

If the French were to vote,
Kerry would be a shoo-in: Polls

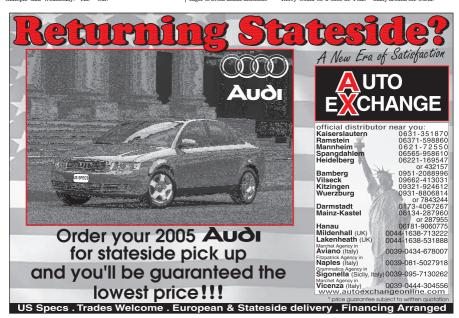
consistently show that he would reap about 80 percent if the contest were held here.

French envoys from across the political spectrum, like many other international delegations, were officially invited to Boston to observe how the U.S. political

system works.

But polls show France is awash with fervent support for the Democratic ticket — and some French politicians hide it better than oth-

The French are not alone. Bush's policies on the environment, Iraq war and U.S. detention center at Guantanamo Bay — among others — have angered many around the world.



IN THE WORLD

Debate continues over Arab anti-terror force

The Associated Press

JIDDAH, Saudi Arabia — Iraqi Prime Minister Ayad Allawi urged Islamic countries Thursday to "stand as one group" against terrorists and voiced support for formation of Saudi-led Muslim force to help stabilizable country

help stabilize his country.

In London, an Arab League official said any such force would only be acceptable if ordered by the U.N. Security Council and linked to a specific timetable for withdrawal of U.S. forces from Irao.

Responding in Washington, State Department spokesman Adam Ereli said the U.N. Security Council already has provided a mandate for foreign troops in Iraq and that it was "kind of far-fetched" to expect Iraq to tell U.S. forces to pull out.

Allawi told a news conference here that the region's leaders should unify and "stand as one group" against "those gangs, those terrorists and those criminals" who he said are threatening the Arab world.

he said are threatening the Arrab world.
But while Arab governments and other
Muslim countries say they want to help restore calm in Iraq — and have an interest
in ensuring violence there does not destabilize the region — they must move carefully
to avoid angering their citizens, many of

Powell visits Iraq, Kuwait to push international terror initiative

whom are hostile toward the United States and Irag's U.S.-backed government.

In fact, a militant group posted an Internet warning that threatens attacks against any Islamic or Arab nation that contributes troops to a Saudi-proposed Muslim force for Iraq. "Our swords will be drawn in the face of anyone who cooperates with the Jews and the Christians," the group said in its statement. The statement was issued in the name of the Jamaat al-Tawhid al-Islamiya — Omarel -Mukhtar Brigade, a little known group whose main title means the Group of Islamic Monothesis.

Allawi said that if the 15-month old insurgency in Iraq prevails, countries such as Saudi Arabia, Syria and Lebanon would not be safe. Allawi spoke a day after a militia attack 35 miles outside of Baghdad killed dozens in the deadliest attack since he took office a month ago from a U.S. governing authority.

With Secretary of State Colin Powell standing at his side, Allawi voiced support for a Saudi initiative under which Muslim countries would contribute to the creation of a new force that would help bring stabili-

ty to Irac

Under the Saudi proposal, Arab and Muslim countries that do not border on Iraq would be invited to contribute. Iraq believes involvement by its immediate neighbors in the country's security could ultimately lead to nolitical conflicts with them.

Powell welcomed the Saudi initiative and said the time may be ripe for a more active role by Arab and Muslim countries based on the handover of sovereignty to Allawi, along with the approval of a U.N. Security Council resolution that gives legitimacy to his interim government.

"They now have a sovereign government that is up and running," Powell said. "Based on that, there will be more intensive discussions on the basis of the Saudi initiative to see if more countries are willing to provide support."

Later, Powell flew to Kuwait, where he told reporters that the Saudis are trying to shape their proposal in a way that garners maximum support from Arab and Muslim populations. Consistent with the goal, he said Allawin has sent letters to leaders from these countries inviting them to dispatch forces to Iraq.

Among the unanswered questions, Pow-

ell said, was whether a Muslim security force would complement the existing U.S.-led coalition or would be a one-for-one substitution.

In London, Arab League envoy Ali Hamid said that "a solution with the help of the international community is a good idea provided that the Americans declare they are going to withdraw and not involve NATO in Iraqi affairs."

NATO diplomats have been meeting in Belgium to discuss whether and how the alliance should be involved in training missions in Iraq.

No Arab country is now a coalition participant and the numbers of Muslims in the coalition is believed to be scant. Politically, it would be far easier for Muslim countries to commit themselves as a group rather than individually.

Some of the countries mentioned as possible participants in a security force — Malaysia, Algeria, Bangladesh, Indonesia, Pakistan and Morocco — are from far outside the region. Pakistan is among the many countries that Iraqi officials have contacted in recent weeks.

Forest fires spread from Portugal to Spain

BY JOANA MATEUS
The Associated Press

LISBON, Portugal — Firefighters were struggling to control raging forest fires in Portugal on Thursday, while blazes across the border in southern Spain were some of the worst seen in a

At least 34,594 acres have burned to a crisp in parts of the southern region of Andalusia since fires broke out there two days ago.

"It has been the largest fire for the last 10 years in Andalusia," said Ana Fernandez from Plan Infoca, the region's task force against forest fires.

In Portugal, fires started Sunday in numbers and intensity that recalled last summer when five percent of the country was smoking before rains arrived in late August.

In the Algarve tourist and beach region along the Atlantic Ocean west of the Gibraltar strait, several blazes joined to form a wall of flames about 44 miles wide.



A lone man tries to fight a forest fire early morning in Boticas, Vila Real, northern Portugal, on Wednesday.

Hundreds of firefighters from both countries worked round-the-clock to control the blazes, battled from the sky, too, by planes dropping tons of water and fire suppressants.

Thousands of acres of eucalyptus and cork tree forests and several houses were destroyed in Portugal, and several hundred people evacuated from their

More than 81,500 acres of forest and agricultural land has been lost to fires between January and July, the government said in a statement.

Last year, fires in Portugal destroyed 1 million acres, killed 18 people and damaged 2,500 buildings

Arab militants chain up, burn refugees in Sudan The Associated Press African Union officials were

ADDIS ABABA, Ethiopia — Arab militias chained civilians together and set them on fire in Sudan's western Darfur region, where tens of thousands have been killed in a 17-month conflict, according to a report by an African Union monitoring team

The immolation came during a July 3 attack on the village of Suleia by the pro-government militias known as the Janjaweed, the monitoring team said in its report.

It did not say how many people were killed.

The report, which was not signed but was written on African Union letterhead, also said the village of Ehada "had been burn and deserted except for a few men. ... It was] an unwarranted and unprovoked attack on the civilian population by the Janjaweed."

African Union officials were not immediately available for comment on the report.

The African Union monitors are supposed to be observing a cease-fire signed in April between the government and the region's two black rebel groups. But fighting has continued in Darfur, where militias drawn mostly from nomadic Arab tribes have launched a brutal campaign to drive out black farmers.

The United Nations estimates up to 30,000 people have been killed in Darfur, more than a million driven from their homes, and some 2.2 million left in urgent need of food and other aid. The U.S. Congress has labeled the atrocities genocide.

The conflict stems from long-standing tensions between nomadic Arab tribes and their African neighbors over dwindling water and farmland.

Uzbek extremist group detailed

TASHKENT, Uzbekistan — The extremist Islamic group behind a wave of violence here that left at least 47 people dead was organized in small cells, with rank-and-file members kept in the dark about the total number of adherents to its hardline ideology, a suspect said Thursday.

Hikmat Eshmatov. 28. said each cell consisted of five to

six people who were known to each other only by nicknames, substituting common Uzbek names for their own. Only the cell leader knew other cells, Eshmatov testified at the Supreme Court trial of the first 15 suspects in the March-April attacks. "We didn't know how many people we had," Eshmatov

said.

All suspects have pleaded guilty and are testifying about their involvement with the new extremist group called Jamost, or "society" in Uzbek, which appears to be a splinter organization from the al-Qaida-allied Islamic Movement of Uzbekistan. The violence included Central Asia's first-ever suicide

bombings along with explosions and assaults on police,

and Uzbek authorities say 33 militants, 10 police and four bystanders died.

Swedish prison escape

STOCKHOLM, Sweden — While Swedish police on Thursday chased one of four men who escaped from a maximum-security prison the day before, politicians and pundits questioned how the well-planned escape masterninded by a convicted police killer could have happened.

Tony Olsson, a 31-year-old Swede who was convicted in 1999 for killing two policemen after a bank robbery, was believed to have masterminded the audacious breakout, which made front-page news in low-crime Sweden.

Paris hospital overload

PARIS — Up to 30 percent of hospital beds may be unavailable for patients during France's traditional holiday time despite painful lessons learned from last summer's deadly heat wave, a prominent emergency physician said Thursday.

Nearly 15,000 people died during the 2003 heat wave,

partly because the weeks-long hot spell struck in August when many French go on vacation. Hospitals, operating with reduced staffs, were overwhelmed. "There are as many hospital beds closed as last year."

"There are as many nospital beds closed as last year," said Patrick Pelloux, the head of an association of emergency room doctors.

U.S. climber killed in Switzerland

ZERMATT, Switzerland — An American climber was killed in a fall on Switzerland's famed Matterhorn mountain, police said Thursday.

The victim was identified as Mark Reisch, 47, of Michi-

gan, police spokesman Markus Rieder said. Rieder said the initial police investigation indicated that the accident occurred Monday morning as Reisch and another American man were climbing down the mountain. A police statement said the men were descending by

other American man were climbing down the mountain.

A police statement said the men were descending by rope when Reisch, who was lower down, fell for undetermined reasons.

Bad weather forced rescuers to call off their initial search, police said. Reisch's body was recovered Tuesday when the search resumed.

From The Associated Press

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Printed in Italy by Editrice Telestamps

Stars and Stripes (USPS 017252) is published daily (except Christman files Years) for 50 cents daily and \$1 Sunday by the Stars and Stripe central office, \$29 14th St. NW, Suha 350, Washington DC 20045-1301. Per oficials poolsage paid all Washington DC. Postmaster: Serial address change to European Stars and Stripes, Unit 22480, APO AE 09211.

Compare and Pacific Stars and Stripes 2004

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Letter was 'chilling'

The letter "It's a matter of loyalty" (July 19) stopped my pen dead in its tracks.

The writer claimed to be confused by an earlier letter likening the behavior of conservatives to sheep. The writer bleats on about loyalty and values, etc., while blaming the fall of South Vietnam on a Democratic Congress and the so-called "liberal media" for most of the ills of the world. (These are the same folks who scoffed at the idea of a "vast right-wing conspiracy" a few years ago).

The letter writer stated: "Liberals in uniform are living a lie. Values such as integrity, loyalty and love of country that are ingrained into the armed forces are alien concepts to the left.'

To hear a member of the American armed forces make such a statement is truly chilling and actually rather sad.

I have served two separate enlistments for a total of eight years on active duty. I prefer to think of myself as a freethinking individual; however, if pressed, I would have to say my views generally lean to the left of center. I gave eight years of my life to my country out of a sense of loyalty, duty and patriotism. There were definitely times I disagreed with the commander in chief, but I kept my head down and soldiered on. I also felt that, if I saw something that was blatantly wrong, it was my duty to speak up and correct the wrong. If leaders are always correct and the military demands blind loyalty and nobody should ever question authority, then we are in serious trouble. Does the letter writer remember My Lai? How about the Nuremberg defense, "I was just following orders"?

I respectfully submit that America is a nation that was founded on the principles of freedom and the right to dissent. Our country's very existence is due to the dissenting views of the Founding Fathers. I believe our country will survive this latest threat, both from the terrorists bent on destroying our way of life and those of our countrymen taking advantage of this situation to pursue their own agenda. All it requires is a little independent thought and to stop following the mindless flock.

Edmund F. Lada Heidelberg, Germany

Christ's words lost

The marriage institution should be a godly one" ("Gay marriages," July 20). Amen

But I would like to challenge the letter writer. When Christ stood before the Pharisees confronted by a different civic issue, taxation, he gave a well-coined response, "Give unto Caesar what is Caesar's, and unto God what is God's." Somewhere between the Declaration of Independence and the Christian Coalition, the defense of traditional values, and Biblical values in particular, has become annexed by various political platforms bellowing a historically Christian ethic ... but the traditions of this historical Judeo-Christian ethos

Tell us what you think

Stars and Stripes welcomes your comments on editorials and columns that are published in the newspaper, and values letters on topics of importance in the lives of our readers. All letters must he signed, and must include the writer's address or base and telephone number. Please limit all letters to 300 words. We reserve the right to edit letters for length, taste and clarity.

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seem, well, lost, Christ's own words are lost amid the campaigning.

"Marriage is the union of a man and a woman" is an oft-heard phrase. I tend to believe it's true. But I tend also to believe that marriage is specifically a godly institu-tion, i.e., God ordains it. The state is not and, much more importantly, must not be an authorizing force on issues of a religious nature.

Caesar does not ordain marriages, and hence he cannot proclaim what is and is not considered a valid one. If society (and, more importantly, secular government) wants to implement an institution inherited from religion, let it do so with all enthusiasm

The moment secular government begins to claim the authority to define words it, in fact, borrowed from religion in the first place, my fear factor has to increase, if only slightly

The Constitution will not save social mo rality, nor will our elected officials and their presumed notions of justice and equity. That is the role of the church, the role of families, the role of individuals as examples. Let us not falsely elevate to the level of the Constitution what was from the beginning on an eminently higher plane. The Taliban proscribes religion, the U.S. Constitution freely allows and offers it.

By all means, let's discuss the state and social ethics. By all means, let's discuss the family and personal morality. But give to Caesar what is his, and do not abdicate to him what is your gift to share in love.

Joshua Casteel Baghdad

Maybe a good idea ...

I totally agree with the writer of "Cover troops, not enemy" (July 27). Why on earth are insurgent photographs being published in Stars and Stripes? In World War II, such photographs would be consid-ered propaganda by the enemy. This isn't a football game, where you give equal coverage to opposing teams. This is life and death

Who was on the receiving end of that

round seen leaving an insurgent mortar? Whose family had a loved one killed in

that burning vehicle, which insurgents are dancing in front of? Insurgents are criminals

Oh, wait a minute, when I come to think of it, Stars and Stripes and all the other news outlets around the world must be secretly "encouraged" by our intelligence services to display videos and photographs of insurgents committing murder. Why? So the insurgents can be identified by informants, then hunted and tracked down. Because when these insurgents are captured, there's tangible proof against them that's going to stand up in a court of law.

Maybe Stars and Stripes should keep up the good work. You're encouraging insurgents to identify themselves. Then they can be eliminated. Paul DesJardins

RAF Mildenhall, England

Shoddy shoes can take a hike

"The Bates Conspiracy" ... while sounding like the title of a cheap spy novel. many in the military view the close relationship of the armed forces with the Bates shoe company in a very negative light. I refuse to buy any more Bates products, ending a 20-year relationship that started with my arrival at the Naval Academy. Today I, and many other officers, buy products manufactured by Florsheim, Bostonian and other quality comnanies

The reason is simple: Bates is providing an inferior product at a premium price.

Speaking with other military person-nel, officers and enlisted alike, I have discovered that my experience with poor-quality Bates products is the norm rather than the exception. Recent experiences include having the soles of Bates shoes disintegrate, literally, without warning - forcing the wearer to rush to the exchange to buy another pair of questionable footwear or spend the day walking around with flaps of rubber peeking out of the bottoms of their feet.

Complaints to both the Navy Exchange and Bates received no response or: 'Sorry, but there is nothing we can do."

There is something the military community can do, however. That is to buy somewhere else.

Most junior personnel do not realize they have an option. There are several quality shoes on the civilian market that meet military regulations; many are the same price as the Bates shoes they would replace. Even at a slightly higher price. the difference in quality of a well-manufactured shoe is worth a few extra dollars. If the Army and Air Force Exchange Service and NEX saw a decline in sales of their second-rate Bates products, they may well decide it's time to offer a few op tions to their clients. Until that time, my friends and I will buy our shoes elsewhere.

Lt. Cmdr. Floyd L. Devine Naval Facility White Beach, Okinawa

BY GARRY TRUDEAU

Doonesbury 71









OPINION

Tension evident even as Dems harmonize

rom where the old-timers sit make that the geezers who view this from the prospective of an-cient political history — this may be the most exceptional Democratic Na

Dan Thomasson

tional Convention in memory, not only in its utter lack of relevance in choosing a presidential candidate, but in the ab-sence of dissension among delegates and special interests. One can cut the harmony

with a knife Even the protesters who are kept a safe distance from the FleetCenter seem ane-

mic in comparison to past affairs when anti-war and civil-rights activists flocked to Chicago and New York and Miami to make themselves heard over the hoopla of the party's official machinery. Those opposing the Iraq invasion shouted their disapproval at John Kerry not because he has taken a positive stance for it, but because he has not spoken out firmly against it.

Inside the house built to accommodate this city's beloved basketball Celtics, the enthusiasm rivals even that of the fans in the salad days of Bill Russell and Larry Bird. Only the banners have been changed from their Irish green to the red-white-and-blue bunting of a different sort of natriotism. Missing are the disparate groups that in the past have given the party's gathering more the look of a mental institution than a nominating conven-

But it was on the podium where the love and peace - almost an oxymoron when it comes to Democrats - prevailed at the highest level

From Jimmy Carter - everyone's favorite ex-president - to Bill Clinton, newly slim and fit and as charismatic as ever and introduced by Sen. Hillary Rodham Clinton, the theme was the same: Just stick together with Kerry and his running mate, John Edwards, and the White House will once again be yours.

The message has been greeted repeatedly by thunderous demonstrations of exaltation from the delegates, who have no real official duty other than to endorse a ticket already chosen by the primary system. Only 2000's loser, then-Vice President Al Gore, sounded out of synch, whining repeatedly about his own misfortune His early position on the opening night certified his stature in the party.

Yet in all of this there seemed to be some of the little boy whistling for courage in the dark. While political loudmouths such as James Carville were calling the incumbent president "toast," and the atmosphere was one of "it's all over but the shouting," the latest polls show George W. Bush's numbers improving somewhat. More importantly, Kerry still hasn't benefited much from Bush's low ratings, indicating that the vast majority of voters still aren't yet in the November mode.

The party's poll watchers realize that, for all their bravado, the election still is Bush's to win or lose, and that when the undecideds who will make the difference finally conclude whether to give him another four years, those who answer that question negatively will focus on the alternative. It will be up to Kerry to make certain that his campaign until that time doesn't produce any major faux pas, if



that is possible.

In that vein, there clearly will be a concerted effort to control the natural inclinations of Kerry's wife, Teresa Heinz Kerry, a task that may be beyond the senator's aides or anyone else. Heinz Kerry has a reputation for outspokenness that was manifested in her telling a newspa-per questioner to "shove it" when he asked her to explain a word she had used. The Boston Herald dredged up a quote from a 1975 book in which she reportedly described Kerry's main ally, Sen. Edward Kennedy, as a bastard and also disparaged the Democratic Party generally. Of course, she was married to a conservative Republican in those days.

If the past has any relevance at all in this affair, Kerry should receive a healthy

bounce in the polls coming out of the euphoria of the convention despite the lack of prime-time coverage by the major broadcast networks. The trick will be to sustain it through what normally is a dark period between the end of this pep rally and the Republican one late next month

That increase could be sustained by a large expenditure on national advertising. Although the ticket got less of a boost from the naming of Edwards than expected (only about 4 percent), Kerry's managers are hoping to vastly improve on that with his prime-time acceptance speech.

Meanwhile, the love and kisses will continue at least on the surface, sustained by a party base that appears to despise Bush more than even Richard Nixon.

Dan Thomasson is former editor of the Scripps Howard News Service.

Bryant case shows rape shield laws have issues

he latest developments in the Kobe Bryant case raise some hard questions about rape shield laws. It would have been a travesty if Judge Terry Ruckriegle had refused to admit credible evidence that Bryant's accuser had consensual sex with two other men within 48 hours of her encounter with Bryant, especially given the defense claim that one of these encounters took place in the 15 hours between the alleged assault and her subsequent medical examination.

Colorado's rape shield statute limited Bryant's defense to arguing that this evidence should be admissible because it pro-vides a plausible alternative explanation for any physical injury to the accuser, i.e., that such injury was a product of three con-sensual sexual encounters taking place over a short time, rather than of a sexual as-

The real defense argument, of course, is that the accuser is sexually promiscuous, and often engages in the behavior the defense claims took place.

The standard justification for rane shield laws is that defense attorneys shouldn't be allowed to put the accuser's sex life on trial

Here's a question we ought to begin asking: Why not? Why shouldn't a trial about sex include relevant evidence about sex? There are basically three answers to that question. The good one goes like this: If the defense is allowed to introduce the accuser's sexual history, then there's a serious risk that a jury may refuse to convict a defendant that the jury believes is guilty, if the accuse happens to be promiscuous, because juries may punish sexually promiscuous accusers by not protecting them against rape

This is — or at least was — a good argu ment, because there's little doubt this sort of "jury nullification" was common in the days before rape shield laws. The question we should be asking today is, given the gradual shift in social attitudes toward casual sex, is the risk of this sort of jury misconduct still sufficiently strong to justify keeping potentially compelling evidence out of court?

The bad arguments for rape shield statutes are that the accuser's sexual history isn't relevant to whether she consented to sex in the context of an alleged assault, and that allowing past sexual conduct into evidence will keep victims from coming forward, because of their fear of public embarrassment

Nothing illustrates the ideological distortion that surrounds rape law better than the former argument. It is, in a word, preposter-

Consider the Bryant case, which appears to be a classic "he said, she said" scenario. The defense claim is that Bryant and the accuser engaged in casual, consensual sex - a claim that, considering Bryant's celebrity, as well as the lifestyles of various NBA stars and the women who cater to those lifestyles, seems plausible on its face.

Given this, what could possibly be more relevant to Bryant's defense than whether his accuser has a history of engaging in casual sexual encounters? Imagine if Bryant's accuser had been a virgin but a statute probibited the prosecution from pointing this out to the jury. That, in reverse, is the position rape shield laws put defendants in when they bar the defense from introducing evidence regarding accusers' sexual histories.

As for the argument that allowing past sexual conduct into evidence will keep accusers from coming forward, it's an odd scale that treats an accuser's potential embarrassment as a more weighty concern than the risk of sending an innocent man to prison for the rest of his life.

There's no question that, a generation ago, rape law was in need of fundamental reform. Today, the question is whether that reform itself needs reforming.

Paul Campos is a law professor at the University of Colorado in Bould

Mallard Fillmore

BY BRUCE TINSLEY SOME SAY THAT A KERRY ADMINISTRATION TEPPORISTS WOULD BE SOFT AGGRESSORS NATIONS IS NOT TRUE!

YOUR MONEY

VA: Active reservists can get home loans in just 90 days

Stars and Stripes

ARLINGTON, Va. - The Department of Veterans Affairs wants activated reservists to know that due to their activation they need only three months' service, and not six years, to qualify for the VA's home-loan benefit.

Since 1992 the VA has offered its no-down payment home-loan program to Reserve and Guard members, eligible to apply after they had served six years. But if they are called to active duty, the service time is cut to 90 days, said Keith Pedigo, director of the VA Loan Guaranty Service.

"The requirement for those who are not on active duty is they must serve six years in the active selective Reserve or Guard. After six years of people doing their summer camps [training and weekend duties], they earn enough points to qualify. For those Reservists and National Guard members who are called to active duty, once they're on active duty, we qualify as regular ac-

As of Wednesday, the total National Guard and Reserve members on active duty was 150,714 The total number on active duty for the Army National Guard and Army Reserve is 123.695; Naval

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Guard and Air Force Reserve, 11,472; Marine Corps Reserve, 11.097; and the Coast Guard Reserve, 1,546.

Troops who logged fewer than 90 days of activated service but who were discharged because of service-connected disability still are eligible to apply, he said

"The reason most veterans go this route is because it affords them the opportunity to buy a home without having to make a down payment," Pedigo said.

Each year, about 15 percent of the VA's loans are guaranteed to active-duty personnel, and about percent are guaranteed for Guard and Reserve members who qualify after their six years of service. The remainder goes to

In the past three years, the department guaranteed 1.1 million loans for a total of \$134 billion. Last year, the VA guaranteed 490,000 loans totaling \$64 billion, Pedigo said.

This year, however, they predict a slowdown, to about 350,000

"We're projecting it will be down from last because the refinancing boom has quieted down."

About 67 percent of the VA loans guaranteed last year were due to members refinancing at

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+15.08 +14.47 +11.45

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-2.1 -5.1 -10.5 +.5

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lower interest rates. The average interest rate reduction was 1.5 percent, and a benefit to refinancing through the VA is that members don't have to pay out-of-pocket expenses such as appraisal or broker fees.

The VA's foreclosure rate last ear was 6.8 percent, higher than the 3 percent of the conventional loan market, but lower than the federal Housing and Urban Development's FHA program of about 10 percent.

"By virtue of the fact that there is no down payment required, the foreclosure rate tends to be higher than the conventional loan market," Pedigo said. "It's the riskier part of the business. Making no down payment means you don't have the instant equity in the property and you're generally in a riskier position.

The VA has several programs to help keep homeowners from losing their homes, including nine regional loan centers in the United States that offer financial counseling and payment consolidation efforts

The VA program is available only for home sales within the 50 U.S. states and the territories of Puerto Rico, U.S. Virgin Islands, American Samoa, Northern Mariana Islands and Guam.

E-mail Sandra Jontz at

EXCHANGE RATES

Military rates	
Furo	\$1,2347
British pound	\$1.87
Japanese ven (July 31)	109.00
S. Korean won (July 30)	1.139.00
Commercial rate	es
Bahrain (Dinar)	0.3770
British pound	
Canada (Dollar)	1.3315
Denmark (Krone)	6.1856
Egypt (Pound)	6.200
Euro	\$1.2058
Hong Kong (Dollar)	7.8003
Hungary (Forint)	205.00
Iceland (Krona)	71.775
Israel (Shekel)	
Japan (Yen)	112.31
Kuwait (Dinar)	0.2947
Norway (Krone)	
Philippines (Peso)	55.96
Saudi Arabia (Riyal)	3.7495
Singapore (Dollar)	1.7283
S. Korea (Won)	
Switzerland (Franc)	1.2805
Thailand (Baht)	41.46
Turkey (Lira)	1,492,537.00
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PRECIOUS METALS

	London close
Gold.	\$387.3
Silver	\$6.3

INTEREST RATES

Car will tell you when it's hurting

Dear Tom and Ray:

ses

I am writing to you on behalf of "Bookie," my low-mileage 1988 Acura Integra. Although she has spent all of her life in the happy confusion of Southern California, Bookie has less than 40,000 miles on her and, to her credit, remains in excellent health. Although I religiously pamper her with regular oil changes, fluid checks and other necessities. Bookie is rapidly approaching midlife, and there

are a number of cri-Click and Clack — bevond new Tom and Ray Magliozzi

tires windshield wipers — that I feel should be anticipated lest they impinge unfavorably on her reliability, my pocketbook and our relationship (the reason I'm nervous has to do with Sheila, my Chevrolet Beretta, and her treachery, but that's another, sad story). Here are my questions: When should I replace Bookie's computer? When should I replace her timing belt? And dare I risk her general health by pulling a trailer with the contents of a one-bedroom apartment from Maine to California? - William

TOM: Let's take your prob lems in the order in which they're presented, William.

RAY: Your first problem is that you've got way too intimate a relationship with your car. That indicates to us that you need to develop a much more active social life. So, with your permission, we'll forward your letter on to Dr. Ruth after we've answered your car questions.

TOM: I would not replace the computer until one of two things happens: Either you run out of room on your hard drive (that's a little computer joke, William), or the computer stops working. A computer for this car costs about \$600, just for the part! And it might never need to be replaced. So if I were you, I'd just leave it alone and keep driv-

RAY: The timing belt normally needs to be changed at 60,000 miles. So, theoretically, you can leave that alone for another 20,000 miles. But given the age

of the car (and therefore the belt). I'd go

ahead change the timing belt now. You don't want it to break while you're driving

TOM: Finally, if you love this car as much as you say you do, I wouldn't tow a trailer full of furniture across the country. This Integra is a little, four-cylinder car, and it's not designed to tow one-bedroom anartments from Maine to California. If it's a stick shift, you'll definitely wear out the clutch crossing the Rocky Mountains. And even if it's not, you'll shorten the life of the engine due to all the extra wear and tear.

RAY: But if you decide to ignore our advice and do it any way, then in addition to a clutch and a set of rings, be sure to bring along an extra computer. No, not the car's computer — a laptop. Then at least you'll be able to logon to the Internet and shop for a new car from wherever vou happen to break down. William, Good luck.

Got a question about cars? Write to Click and Clack in care of this newspa-per, or e-mail them by visiting the Car Talk section of cars.com on the World Wide Web. Distributed by King Fea-

ents and Sensibility Money tip of the day

Are ETFs for you?

NEW YORK - Although they've been around for years, exchange-traded funds are catching on as an investment replacement for index mutual funds.

So-called ETFs look like index mutual funds but trade like stocks.

They're baskets of stocks and bonds that are bought and sold as a single investment.

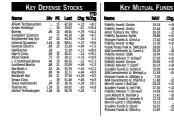
Like stocks, their change constantly, and they can be traded throughout the day. But you can buy ETFs only igh a broker, for a small commission, and unlike with funds, short-selling is permitted with ETFs

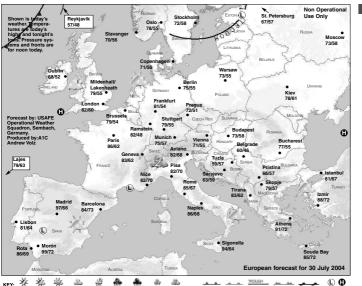
Investors increasingly are adding ETFs in their asset allocations as a replacement for mutual funds and as part of their 401(k) and other retirement savings plans.

John Demming, a spokesman for The Vanguard Group, says ETFs are a good choice for inves tors who want easy liquidity to meet short-term goals.

They're also good for large transactions (cutting down on brokerage commissions) and for investors who want low expense for buy-and-hold strategy.

ETFs aren't for you if you plan to make small investments or trade often





118/87

EUROPEAN FORECAST

Benelux: Partly cloudy. Highs will be in the upper 70s and lows will be in the mid to upper 50s.

Britain, Ireland: Partly to mostly cloudy with isolated rain showers in the morning. Highs will be in the upper 70s and lows will be in the mid-50s.

Croatia and Bosnia: Mostly cloudy with rainshowers and isolated thun-derstorms. Highs will be in the lower 60s and lows will be in the upper

France: Partly to mostly cloudy Highs will be in the mid-80s and lows will be in the mid to upper 60s.

Northern Germany: Partly cloudy. Highs will be in the mid-70s to lower 80s and lows will be in the mid-50s.

Southern Germany: Partly to mostly cloudy. Highs will be in the mid-70s to lower 80s and lows will be in the mid to lower 50s.

Hungary: Cloudy with rain showers. Highs will be in the lower 70s and lows will be in the upper 50s.

Northern Italy: Partly to mostly cloudy with isolated thunderstorms. Highs will be in the mid-80s and lows will be in the upper 60s.

Southern Italy: Partly cloudy. Highs will be in the mid-8's and lows will be in the upper 60s.

Kosovo: Mostly cloudy. Highs will be in the mid-60s to lower 70s and lows will be in the upper 50s to lower 60s.

Norway: Partly cloudy with isolated rainshowers. Highs will be in the 70s and lows will be in the mid-50s.

Portugal, Spain: Partly Cloudy. On the coast, highs will be in the mid-80s and inland they will be in the upper 90s and lows will be in the mid-60s to lower 70s.

Turkey: Partly cloudy. Highs will be in the lower 80s to lower 90s and lows will be in the mid-60s to mid-70s.

For current weather watches, warnings, and 5-day forecasts go to the USAFE Operational Weather Squadron home https://ows.sembach.af.mil http://ows.public.sembach.af.mil

SUN & MOON



TODAY'S STATESIDE OUTLOOK

Cairo 95/71

93/73

AFRIC/

58 PCls) 59 PCls) 76 Cls 57 PCls) 78 PCls) 74 PCls) 72 Rain 57 PCls) 77 Rain 57 PCls) 76 PCls) 77 Rain 67 PCls) 77 PCls) 78 PCls) 79 PCls) 70 PCls 71 PCls 71 PCls 72 PCls 73 PCls 73 PCls 74 PCls 75 PCls 76 PCls 77 PCls 77 PCls 78 PCls 78 PCls 78 PCls 79 67 Clay 54 PClay 71 PClay 71 PClay 73 PClay 68 PClay 68 PClay 68 PClay 76 PClay 76 PClay 76 PClay 76 PClay 76 PClay 77 PClay 68 59 7 76 70 66 72 73 52 65 79 70 75 62 79 68 60 72 63 72 68 72 63 61 74 76 71 66 60 76 73 71 70 85 88 81 96 81 91 84 96 83 96 109 7317556861747062637282665266626856719969665469779968687674 78 88 87 78 89 76 86 78 84 91 83 79 85 82 101 85 90 69 65 70 67 64 52 66 72 70 72 71 75 60 73 Rair PCld umbus,Ga umbus,Oh Houston Huntsville POIdy Rain POIds PCidy PCidy Cidy Rain Cidy PCidy Rain PCidy Rain Or Rain POdy Rain POdy Rain POdy Rain Cidy PCidy PCidy Rain Cir PCId Cld 70 70 77 69 65 51 75 69 70 70 54 66 95 83 88 86 83 88 84 85 87 80 83 Rain POldy POldy Rain Rain Rain POldy 93 87 89 84 89 83 86

THE UNITED STATES TODAY

MIDEAST

New Delhi 91/78

90/74

110/81

102/76

Karac 87/81

101/74

100/70





PLANNING A CELEBRATION: USE A DESIGNATED DRIVER

- About 40.000 people are killed in road accidents on European roads every year > The total costs for road accidents are estimated at over 160 billion a year in the European Union
- It is estimated that excessive blood alcohol concentration is involved in 1 out of 4 accidents and better drink-driving management could prevent up to 10.000 fatalities in the EU annually



US ARMY EUROPE BE PART OF THE SOLUTION!

IMA - EUROPE REGION

PAGE 18 · STARS AND S

Mayor saves the day

OH HOWLAND — Warren Mayor Michael O'Brien went to shop for vitamins and ended up catching a suspected thief.

O'Brien was shopping at a drugstore Monday in this neighboring northeast Ohio community when he heard an assistant manager yell, "Stop!" A man had left the

A man had left the Rite Aid store with what police later said was \$740 in merchandise.

O'Brien happened to be driving a detective cruiser while his city car was in the shop. He followed the man, turned on the lights and siren, pulled over a 1988 Pontiac and called for backup.

The mayor said his citizen's arrest went smoothly.

"I told the men to get out of the car and don't move and they listened to what I said," O'Brien said. "When they turned around, I said don't move and they didn't."

don't move and they didn't."
Howland police Sgt. Jeff Urso said officers arrested Ivan Sparks, of Warren, on a felony charge of theft and the driver of the car, Marquis Reynolds, also of Warren, on an outstanding warrant.

Rite Aid assistant manager Linda Stewart told police that a man fitting Sparks' description tried to leave the store with a basket of merchandise that included cigarettes and cologne.

"I dove for the basket because I wanted my merchandise back," she said. "The mayor ran to his car, the lights went on and he pulled him over just like on 'Dragnet.'"

Head for schools sought

DC WASHINGTON – Four finalists were selected in the search for a new leader of the city's public schools. They include the state superintendent in Illinois, the superintendent in Toledo, Ohio; the former superintendent in Toledo, the company of the superintendent in Pittsburgh. The school system continues to have low test scores and declining enrollment.

Bounty on officers

DENVER — An unknown group distributed filers offering a bounty of at least \$\$5,000 to anyone who kills police officers, apparently in response to two recent fatal police shootings. The filers include photos of Frank Lobato, a 63-year-old invalid killed by police allowed to the state of the state o

No more silly-string

CA LOS ANGELES — Hollywood residents and business people tired of being in the silly-string crossfire every Halloween have asked the city to ban the colorful streams of compressed foam.

Councilman Tom LaBonge, whose district includes part of Hollywood, initially sought a complete ban but later opted to focus on Halloween, when residents complain the streets get jammed with silly-string slingers.

LaBonge said the non-biodegradable foam can fall into storm



drains and harm marine life, and also can endanger police, particularly those on horseback.

On Friday, without debate, a Los Angeles City Council committee asked the city attorney's office to prepare an ordinance that eventually will be put to a vote before the council.

Several other communities, including Santa Clarita and New Orleans, have restrictions against the use of silly string.

Chief will retire

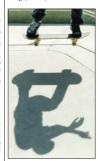
All MONTGOMERY — Police Chief John Wilson announced he will retire, partly because of a former officer's allegation that he caught the chief driving drunk. Wilson, 50, said he will retire effective Nov. I but plans to take administrative leave immedia to retire early near year but would do so now to fight the "unfounded misdemeanor case."

Boat explodes, kills one

MI HOLLAND TOWNSHIP— A boat exploded, burst into flames and sank Saturday on a western Michigan lake, killing one of the two men aboard.

The explosion on the 1959 twin-engine wooden boat knocked the men unconscious, authorities said.

When the boat's owner, John M. Huegli, awoke, he tried but failed



Shadow jumping

Tom Landess, of Virginia Beach, Va., casts a long shadow as he performs a trick Tuesday at the Ames Skatepark in Ames, Iowa. Landess is in Iowa visiting relatives in Ankeny, Iowa. to rouse Peter C. Murray and abandoned the boat as it was consumed by flames on Lake Macatawa, Ottawa County Sheriff's Sgt. Kevin Allman told The Holland Sentinel.

Divers recovered the body of Murray, 52, of Ann Arbor. Huegli, 59, of Dexter, was hospitalized for minor injuries and released

The cause of the explosion was unknown. Huegli told authorities that the boat had been fueled and vented Saturday morning. Allman said.

Teens jump to record

MA BREWSTER — Five teens from here have hopped, skipped and jumped their way into the record books.

They took first place in a jump rope competition in Brisbane, Australia, where more than 600 athletes from 15 countries gathered for the World Rope Skipping Championships.

The four skippers and an alternate — Sara Douglass, Jessica Anderson, Kelsey Gilmore, all 18, and Danielle "Dee" Orman and Sarah Capparelli, both 17 — won first place in one of eight competitions. Their 70-second routine included 30 different tricks, combining gymnastics with nonstop jump roping.

The teens are part of the Brewster Bayside Skippers, a program started a decade ago by Stony Brook Elementary School gym teacher Paul Mullin.

Mullin said that when he started the jump-roping program, parents and children didn't foresee how big — and successful — it would become. There are about 80 youngsters in the program today.

"It feels pretty good," said Orman. "To know we have the best routine in the world is really satisfying, knowing those years of hard work have paid off."

Upon hearing the news, the parents of the Brewster champions recalled 10 years of raising money, carpooling, judging competitions and shepherding their children to competitions.

"I screamed," said Sara's mother Jane Douglass, on her reaction to the news.

Cops face suspension

FL ST. PETERSBURG — Two Florida Highway Patrol troopers face a three-day suspension for failing to aggressively pursus a drunken driving case against an off-duty deputy last October.

Troopers Rodney Espinola and Daniel Cole said there were two men in the swerving Corvette driven by Pinellas County deputy Edmond Randall and they couldn't tell who was driving. Cole and Espinola asked to contest the proposed sanction.

Restrictions hurt clinic

BOCHESTER—Cash registers are ringing less in
Rochester now that people from
the Middle East have largely
stopped coming to the city for medical services at the Mayo Clinic.
Travel restrictions since the Sept.
It attacks have made it difficult
for the visitors to enter the United
States. They were known for extravagant spending on hotel suites,
limousiness and shopping.



Can't believe her eyes Ared and white holstein cow watches phone books being shredded for bedding Monday at Lowell Peckman's Tarm in St. Thomas, Pa. More than 16,000 pounds of used phone books have been collected since July 1 as part of a Franklin County, Pa., recycling program.



Angling for a spot A fish jumps over an oar as members of the women's Halifax Rowing Team return to the dock after competing in the Master 8 event at the Halifax Regatta last weekend in Daytona Beach, Fla.



Making music together of Woodstock High School marching band member Stephanie Nutt, 14, during practice Thursday in Woodstock, Ga. The bird howered over the band looking for a place to and before lighting on the flute and enjoying the music for about 5 seconds before flying off. The band was practicing for the upcoming school year that begins in 2 weeks.

RIPES - JULY 30, 2004 PAGE 19



Fish fright Ricky Boswell, 1.1, reacts to a fish at the Gulf of Mexico exhibit at the McWane Center on Tuesday in Birmingham, Ala. Boswell was on a field trip with Camp Fire West with their summer reading program as a treat for reading five books this summer and completing a book report for each book.



Putting on the pressure under an of the water of the pressure washer and hot water to clean a combine on Tuesday at Joseph Tuchrello Farms near Lakeville, NY. The cleaning is part of routine work to prevent the spread of Golden Nematode in potatoes as farmers rotate crops or work near potato fields.



Having a snack

A giant swallowtail butterfly enjoys the sweet offerings of a milkweed plant late in the afternoon Tuesday near Archer, Fla. This butterfly has a wingspan of 41/2 to 5 inches.



Heartfelt salute

Charles Hurtle, a Purple Heart veteran, salutes during the Presentation of Colors at a salute to Those Who Have Served & Sacrificed at Bunker Hill Monument on Tuesday in Charlestown. Ma.

City considers pet fine

AR ROGERS — City officials are considering a proposal to fine pet owners up to \$1,000 and jail them for a year if they fail to pick up their stray dogs or cats after six days — the same penalties as someone convicted of negligent homicide.

While the city says the suggested ordinance tracks with state law, pet owners fear the proposal is excessive.

"I think jail time may be a little severe. What if you're on vacation and someone else is taking care of your dog when it leaves?" said Kathy Jones, who owns a dog named Toby.

or discussion Tuesday, pet owners could be cited for animal abandonment on the seventh day of impoundment.

James Willett, director of code enforcement for the city, said the proposed ordinance mirrors the state's law against cruelty to animals regarding animal abandonment. He said fines would likely be

"The judge is going to make the determining factor; nothing is set in stone. It's like shoplifting or driving while intoxicated. People who get DWIs get less than the maximum fine." Willett said.

Bodies to be exhumed

GA SAVANNAH — After exhuming at least four bodies in an attempt to prove a link to a \$160 million inheritance, the O'Regan family of Ireland is planning to dig up seven more. Mary Sheehan died in 1983 but left no will. DNA testing has failed to connect the bodies to the family. The Georgia Supreme Court ruled that another family are closer relatives and therefore heirs to the Georgia woman's forture.

Sex offenders database

OLUMBUS — Ohio start—
ed an e-mail service to notify residents when registered ex offenders move within a mile of their
homes. About 10,000 people signed
up in four counties that have been
testing the program. The online databuse of registered sex offenders
also is being expanded to show
maps of offender addresses within
one mile of a resident's address.

Wolf family to move

AZ ALPINE — A family of five placed in an acclimation pen south of this eastern Arizona town in preparation for the animals' eventual release into the wild. The pack, consisting of a male, a female and their three pups, will also the proper of the proper of the proper of the proper of the property of

Card finally delivered

PA SEELYVILLE — Talk about snail mail: A woman vacationing in New Jersey 37 years ago popped a card into the mail and it just arrived at her mother's house in Pennsylvania.

Dorothy Orth, of Seelyville in

northeastern Pennsylvania, baffled her daughter when she called Saturday to thank her for the card. "What card?" Janet Richards, of

Port Jervis, N.Y., asked.

When her mother said it was from Ashury Park N.J. she re-

from Asbury Park, N.J., she remembered.

"I sent that postcard in August 1967, when my husband, Larry, and I were on our fifth wedding anniversary," she said. Orth received it July 17, almost 37 years later. In addition to the 4-cent stamp, a

23-cent stamp was affixed, and the 18431 zip code was penciled in. The card was postmarked Aug. 19, 1967, at the Asbury Park post office, and July 14, 2004, in New York City's Brooklyn borough. "A lot of credit goes to the Brook-

lyn post office and whoever got the postcard to me," Orth said. That was Ernesto Perry, of the

U.S. Post Office undelivered mail unit in Brooklyn.

The postcard was behind a ma-

chine that was recently moved, Perry said. He said he added the zip code and the 23 cent stamp and sent it on its way. "We always try to send back

"We always try to send back mail whenever possible, it doesn't matter how long it has been lost or misplaced," he said.

Drugs found in bales

BUHL — A railroad car used to haul fish meal from Mexico to a southern Idaho trout farm also contained four bales of marijuana worth \$3.3 million. Workers at the Clear Springs Foods facility, which prepares food for the hatcheries, discovered the bales weighing a total of 74 are investigating. They doubt the marijuana was supposed to be unloaded in Buhl.

Grant will fund center

PENNSAUKEN—The Delta uaware River Port Authority will use a \$500,000 federal grant to help build a South Jersey regional visitors welcome control to the located on Admiral Wilson Boulevard, the main thoroughfare into South Jersey from Philadelphia. The center will have information on tourist attractions, maps, message boards, vending machines and restrooms

Inmates may be released

MS JACKSON — The Mississippi Department of Corrections is considering the early release of as many as 20 terminally il il inmates. Those who qualify are in the late stages of diseases like cancer and lung disease and would be too ill to cause harm.

save the agency about \$400,000.

Program funds donated

SHELBYVILLE—Community members and businesses donated enough money to prevent Shelbyville High School officials from cutting a growing Japanicals from cutting a growing Japanicals from cutting a growing Japanical Shelby State of the Japanical Shelby Shelb

n Stories and photos from wire services



Moviegoers watch a free showing of Michael Moore's "Fahrenheit 9/11" in Crawford, Texas — a few miles from President Bush's ranch — Wednesday. Bush supporters also gathered to protest the movie's showing.

Movie showing turns up heat in Crawford

BY ANGELA K. BROWN The Associated Press

CRAWFORD, Texas — Brian Munoz already saw the documentary "Fahrenheit 9/11" in a theater, but he and some friends couldn't resist a chance to watch it again outdoors on a muggy summer night — especially only a few miles from President Bush.

They were among more than 3,000 people — three times more than originally expected — who sat on lawn chairs, pillows or blankets Wednesday night, soaking in Michael Moore's film that lambasts Bush's decision go to war with Iraq and his handling of the 2001 terrorist attacks.

"A lot of people are calling it propaganda, but if you look at it hard, the facts are there," said Munoz, who drove nearly 200 miles from Lewisville in a car covered with anti-Bush slogans.

Moore initially said he would come to Crawford and discuss the movie afterward — and even invited Bush to attend. But on Wednesday, Moore decided to remain at the Democratic National Convention in Boston, saying is presence in Crawford would overshadow the film's message and detract from the convention.

There were plenty of locals in Bush's adopted hometown on hand to lend support to their famous neighbor, who has been vacationing at his Crawford ranch for several days but has made no public appearances. After more than 300 people attended a pro-Bush rally

After more than 300 people attended a pro-Bush rally earlier Wednesday night, many spilled out of the building and gathered on Main Street holding signs praising Bush and criticizing Moore.

The film's screening was organized by the Crawford Peace House, an interfaith gathering place that often serves as a catalyst for peace protests at Bush's ranch.

"This was not done as a protest; it was a demonstration of free speech," said Kay Lucas, a house volunteer. Organizers said there was \$8 suggested donation.

'Barbershop' co-star accused of rape

MEMPHIS, Tenn. — Anthony Anderson, the rotund comedic co-star of "Kangaroo Jack" and the original "Barbershop," has been arrested and charged with aggravated rape while shooting a movie.

The actor. 33. was accused by an unidentified woman

of luring her into a trailer on the set of his latest movie, "Hustle & Flow," and then, along with the film's assistant director, Wayne Witherspoon, sexually assaulting her. Both men were charged on Wednesday after being taken into custody by the Shelby County Sheriff's Department.

The incident occurred Tuesday afternoon at the Shelby County Correctional Center, a penal farm on the outskirts of Memphis, where filming was under way for the movie.

From wire reports

AFRTS Television Schedule

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FACES 'N' PLACES



Halle Berry gets high marks for fetching feline moves in 'Catwoman'

BY MIKE SZYMANSKI

Zap2it.con

LOS ANGELES - Halle Berry is the cat's meow these days. Or, at least, she is with "Catwoman."

"I have watched my cat and I listen to how he purrs and plays and walks and when he gets angry," Berry says. "And there's a sound that he makes that I've tried to use, too."

Her cat is one of the 60 homeless cats used in a scene in her last film, "Gothika, with Robert Downey Jr. In that film, she played a successful psychiatrist who is accused of brutally killing her husband. Berry's mother worked as a psychiatric nurse, and she helped her with the role.

"My mom was a nsuch nurse at a veteran's hospital for 35 years and I've grown up with that in my life - therapy and psychology and always knowing the value and the benefit of it," Berry says. "My mom was really helpful in telling me what things a person in that situation would feel, and how the [heck] they got there.'

In lots of ways, Berry says she looks at where she is now and wonders how the heck she got there. Now the highest-paid black actress in Hollywood history, she also has an Oscar, Golden Globe, Emmy, Image and SAG Award, so she's always aware of expectations to better herself.

"People thought it was strange I was going off to be a Bond girl right after win-

ning an Oscar," she says about playing Jinx in "Die Another Day" after her award-winning role as an abusive mom in "Monster's Ball." "Then, they thought it was strange that I did 'Gothika,' or played Storm again in 'X2.' I don't care.'

She's keeping busy, saying "my umbrella is full," with her roles in upcoming mov-ies, "The Guide," "The Set-Up," "Nappily Ever After" and the animated sci-fi film 'Robots." She ended her second marriage last October, and tries to maintain her pri-, saying, "There are some things that I still haven't revealed that are still secret. I've got strong family support and faith.'

And, if reporters get too personal, she says kiddingly with a wave of her hand, "I slan them.

Although she looks stunning as she walks into the room for an interview she insists she hasn't felt pressure to always be beautiful

"I don't buy into that pressure to be glamorous all the time. It's impossible. I mean, you get a pimple in the morning, you wake up with bags under your eyes, you see if you can use it in your work, maybe incorporate it into your character.

There's no room for bags under her eyes in "Catwoman." where she's decked out in a skin-tight leather outfit, spars with Sharon Stone and plays around with Ben-

"Halle is one of the most dedicated for deck to rest

cused actors that I've ever worked with. She's arguably one of the biggest super-stars in the world, "Bratt says, "but I have to give her full credit because even in the most ridiculous or seemingly insignificant off-camera moment, she would be there."

French director Pitof says, "I know people thought there would be cat fights among the cast, but they were the utmost professionals, and Halle is a superstar no matter what superhero she plays

And what about another comic book originated role she's known for? She's not convinced she will reprise her superhero role of Storm in the "X-Men" franchise because, she says, "My desires have been dictated by what the fans have come to me with, and what their complaints have been. After every movie, especially the real diehard fans, they often say, 'Yeah you know Storm was OK, but she should do more, she should fly, she should fight, she should be more of what she is in the comic book se-

"I'm not really complaining, I'm happy to be a part of it, as its been a great franchise to be a part of, but I think the fans feel that in the comic book she's represented as a little bit more of a leader.

She laughs about the comic-book turn of her career. "I wasn't an avid comic book reader, but

I did read them. Batman was probably the biggest one - it was something I related to, so it's really great that now I get to be Catwoman



Sharon Stone and Halle Berry get a little scrappy in the new film "Catwoman."

One of her idols, Eartha Kitt, is one of the most famous actresses to play Catwom-"Being a woman of color, that meant a lot to me as a kid to see someone like me playing a character that was so universal. So, that theme has sort of come full circle for me now as I get to be the Catwoman for the new century

She sighs, almost purrs, "That feels really good.

Hoffman a real-life hero

Although he once played the reluctant "Hero" in a movie of the same name, Dustin Hoffman wasted no time rushing to the aid of an allergic bee sting victim.

Oscar-winning actor's real-life heroics occurred two weeks ago when a woman walking on the beach with friends was stung b bee near Hoffman's home in Malibu. Lydia Graham began having an al-

lergic reaction and a friend rushed to get help from the beach patrol and people nearby.

"I could feel my eyes starting to sting and swell and my lips starting to swell up as well," Graham said Tuesday on CBS' "The Early Show."

Hoffman and his wife, Lisa, were on deck chairs outside their California home when they heard what happened. Hoffman's wife, who also is allergic to bee stings, retrieved an emergency injection kit from their home and

the two rushed to the woozy Graham's aid.



Graham, 36, said that as her throat was closing up, she

"I did recognize that it was Dustin Hoffman but I was

A Superior Court judge has ordered Tom Sizemore to ap

recognized a familiar face on the sand with her.

sure that ... I could possibly die," Graham said.

Sizemore probation scrutinized

pear in court Aug. 5 to set another

hearing into whether he violated pro-

tenced in October to six months in jail

on misdemeanor charges of harassing, annoying and physi cally abusing Fleiss during their two years together.

Fighting fat headlines

Anna Nicole Smith is jumping to the defense of Kirstie Alley, though it's not clear she needs the help.

Referring to media coverage of Alley's increased weight since her days on "Cheers," Smith told syndicated entertainment TV show "Access Hollywood" on Tuesday, "They are just being so mean to her." Excerpts of

the interview were released in advance Alley's weight problems have been well documented by the tabloids, but she's not running from them. In a reality-comedy series for Showtime, the

53-year-old actress will send up her own image, as well as Hollywood's obsession with weight and beauty. The half-hour series, "Fat

Actress." will air sometime next year. Smith has dealt with her own tabloid coverage, includ-

ing reports on her recent 69-pound weight loss. She says, "I'm so tired of hearing, 'Oh, she's had bypass surgery ... she's had linosuction.' None of it is true.

Stories and photos from The Associated Press



Horoscope

With the morning's moon in Capri com and the evening's moon in Aguarius, the day and night are as different from each other as, Joyce Jillson

well, day and night. Ambitions are put into motion early on, and then, when the sun goes down, you won't want to even think about such trivial things as work. An excited tension builds toward tomorrow's

TODAY'S BIRTHDAY (July 30). This is a stellar vear for your financial picture - wins here affect the

rest of your life, giving you a feeling of security and self-sufficiency. Your love life improves in August when you ask loved ones what they - and supply it. Career-wise you get back on track in September. Singles meet at parties in November. Sagittarius or Cancer love is

ARIES (March 21-April 19). There's no need to feel that you don't have enough. Be pro-active instead - ask for the money, and

Reading and music are good for your soul. The more you learn, the more interesting tonight's date will

TAURUS (April 20-May 20). You are so rational in your dealings with loved ones that they may start to feel you do not care. Work on demonstrating the depth of your emotion. Challenges in sports give

you the motivation to get in better physical shape GEMINI (May 21-June 21). You're thinking ahead all along the way, especially when others aren't Keep a written record of your thoughts - later, this will be a treasure of wisdom. A flirtation grows

more intense. Question your own motives. CANCER (June 22-July 22). You're popular because you keep the well-being of others in mind. Put much thought and preparation into your work. You could hit the jackpot

by communicating a fantastic idea to the one who can put it into practice. LEO (July 23-Aug. 22). Look for the drama and human interest in your day - you'll be repeating the story tonight to an eager audience.

LIMEN T GROW

Peanuts

Tonight, your deep need for love

VIRGO (Aug. 23-Sept. 22). You're driven to do all the good you

can with your current means. You'll even make efforts to expand your resources

for doing good. Tonight though you know the habits that should be avoided, it's still hard to steer clear.

LIBRA (Sept. 23-Oct. 23). You learn quickly and well today Your work becomes marvelous when you add a few new skills or refine

some that you already have Make an effort to train your spontaneous nature and build your library of general knowl-

SCORPIO (Oct. 24-Nov. 21). The importance of enthusiasm is stressed. Consider communication training. It's a perfect day for adding richness and versatility to your vocabulary - being confident in

vour word choice is a sign of personal nower SAGITTARIUS (Nov. 22-Dec. 21). Others may envy the love you've got in your life, but you know that relationships don't happen by

You work diligently. You feed your relationshins with new experiences so they burn on like an eternal flame

CAPRICORN (Dec. 22-Jan. 19). Off-the-wall ideas are not the norm for you, but an air of whimsy takes over, and you're uncharacteris tically kooky. A loving partner is just what you need to ground you. To-

gether, you find solutions for today's strange problems. AQUARIUS (Jan. 20-Feb. 18). You've got it, and you flaunt it. Why not? Social skills are in rare form. You've got shopping luck this afternoon in that you can find bargains - still, the best savings comes from

not spending at all PISCES (Feb. 19-March 20). You're a teacher and a healer others look up to you and expect you to know the answers. Be patient with a teen; learning and change happen in time. Be careful not to

boast or exaggerate tonight. Creators Syndicate

and intimacy is featured. The right person is someone who will cherish and adore you.

OK, NEXT WE'LL RACE TO THAT Hobbes and Calvin

ump Start











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TO MAKE IT MAKE SENSE



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NOT BE READY FOR







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IR MIND!











and

or Worse





Eugene Sheffer Crossword OK, IT WAS A DUMB IDEA. YOU NEVER LISTEN. TH TRYING TO GET ALL THE WEIGHT I GAINED TO GO TO WHAT DID THE DOCTOR SAY, JAKE ? HESAIDIM WOULD YOU LIKE A SECOND OPINION ? FIT AG A FIDDLE AND READY FOR LOVE GUESS WHAT, 20E! WHEN TRIED TO PULL HERSELF UP TO WER FEET TOOM! IT ON SUF NO BUT THE EXCITEMENT WAS ALMOST UNBEAFABLE! Blues Across Down 1 Autumnal abbr. 1 Scepters' toppers 3aby I 4 Obsessed seaman 2 Dagwood's boss' 8 Urban blight wife 12 Squabble 3 Noah's passenger ON, THANK YOU SO MUCH! list THE TARANTULA IS LL ONT THERE, YOU'D TTER STAY HERE 13 "Damn Yankees" 4 Birches' kin vamp 5 Informal 14 Almost black greeting 15 Theater district 6 Miss, neighbor boider Man 17 Physical 7 Rifle 18 Was fresh attachment 19 Praiseful piece 8 Villainous look 21 Holler 9 Unner limit 22 Variety of spruce 10 Eggs 26 Bye word? 11 Workout venue WHO CLAMS HE INVENTED A FORMULA THAT MAKES HIM INVISIBLE 29 Command to NOTHER WASTE GET ALL THE CRACKPOT ASSIGNMENTS 16 Broad scarf 20-Down ME IN THE PANTS! 20 Obedience school 30 "Hail. Caesar!" student 31 Credit-card 23 Cartoonist Kelly payment 24 Opposite of "sans" 32 Illustrations Blondie 25 "OK" 33 Entreaty 34 Parisian pal 35 Keglers' org. 36 Snag 37 1942 battle site I'M LATE BECAUSE MY CAR WOULDN'T START IN THE COLD THERE'S A LITTLE THING CALLED THE WIND-CHILL FACTOR HELLO-O-O-O!!! THAT WAS WRONG ON SO MANY LEVELS 39 Weed killer? 40 Type squares 41 Unbroken SOMEDAY I GOTTA GET ME A CAR. 45 John/Rice IT'S WARM OUTSIDE. collaboration 48 Our galaxy ₩TT 50 Astigmatism effect 51 Staffer 52 Bobby of hockey THAT GOOD HUH ? 53 Satiate 54 Deceptive one 55 Zodiac sign 7-30 SNZP QZKHDZPJE άŅ DAVES 7-50

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Answer to Previous Puzzle

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CRYPTOOUIP

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Yesterday's Cryptoquip: ARE YOU SAYING YOU DON'T NEED HELP PUTTING ON YOUR FANCY CLOTHES? SUIT YOURSELF!

Today's Cryptoquip Clue: M equals R

THAT SCRAMBLED WORD GAME

by Henri Arnold and Mike Argirion

All mings considered

the hest deal

Child alters sleep arrangements

Dear Abby: My husband, "Rick," and I have a 4-year-old daughter, "Carmelle." When I brought Carmelle home from the hospital, she slept in a crib in our bedroom and I'd bring her to bed with me for midnight breast

feedings so I could sleep Since then, Carmelle has refused to sleep in her own bed. I placed a child bed next to ours in our bedroom, and each night I'd tuck her in. But she would cry, so Rick would let her climb into ours. For the past year. she has slept between us. The situation is now bordering on the ridiculous. I often wonder why I bothered to have my tubes tied.

Carmelle has a room of her own that I recently furnished, but she refuses to use it. I now sleep alone in our king-sized bed. That's because I told Rick I didn't want her wetting in my bed any longer. I thought a brand- new bedroom set with a

twin-sized bed would encourage Carmelle to sleep in her room and Rick to sleep with me

Have you any advice for me?

— Abandoned in Palm Bay, Fla. Dear Abandoned: Take your daughter to her pediatrician for an examination to determine

the problem

why she's still wetting the bed. There are medications and device es that can help her but first you must determine what's causing

Once that's done, it's time for you and you husband to have a heart-to-heart about why he's sleeping with his daughter instead of his wife. If necessary, have it in a marriage

counselor's office.

Dear Abby: My friend

"Sheila" is going through a rough divorce. She called one night and told me she was going to kill herself. When I tried to calm her and talk her out of it, she hung

up on me. I tried calling her back for about 10 minutes. Then, fearing she had injured herself, I called the police.

She was taken to the hospital and released, and now she's mad at me. Sheila says I overreacted she wasn't really going to do it and that it's my fault she got

bruised from the encounter. (It was storming and muddy, and they fell in the mud.) I did what I was always taught to do in a situation like that. Did I do something wrong

- Needs to Know in Indiana Dear Needs to Know: No, you did exactly the right thing.

By now, you must have realized that your friend is self- centered, overly dramatic and brought this episode upon her self. Divorces can make people hyperemotional and irrational. Once Sheila gets her feet back on the ground, I hope she realizes what a good friend you are. If she doesn't, the loss is hers.

Letters for this column — with your name and phone number — should be addressed to Dear Abby, P.O. Box 69440, Los Angeles CA 90069. Readers can write yon the Internet at www.uexpress.com/dearabby Universal Press Syndicate

Unscramble these four Jumbles one letter to each square. to form four ordinary words.



NUPWOT

SCREEN TV. Now arrange the circled letters to form the surprise answer, as suggested by the above cartoon

(Answers tomorrow)

WHAT THE DEEP

THINKER FOCUSED

ON WHEN HE

BOUGHT A LARGE-

Yesterday's

Jumbles: PRIOR BURLY ACCEDE GAMBOL Answer: When the struggling artist didn't sell his work, he said it was - HIS "BLUE" PERIOD

Family Circus



"Stop eating 'tato chips, Jeffy. We're tryin' to hear the river.

Dear Abby

Strip clubs a hot topic for wives Dear Annie: Your response to "Disgusted in California" disgusts me She was unset that her husband might attend a bachelor party at a strip club, and she threatened to go to a bar in retaliation. You said, "A wife needs to decide if she trusts her husband or not. One night spent looking at naked women is not going to hurt a healthy marriage." Baloney! I

am sickened by the way men and women take their marriage yows so lightly I do trust my husband. I trust

that he will not attend a party where the groom has a last fling with a beautiful woman. If he steps into a strip club, it says his future wife is not good enough for him.

 Disgusted in Virginia Dear Virginia: We heard from plenty of readers on this one.

From Chicago: I was a waitress in a strip club, and it infuri-



who have never been to such a place think they know exactly what happens in one. "Disgusted" should check local city ordinances. which often prohibit total nudity in clubs and don't allow the women to be touched The women working at these clubs are not romantically interested

in the patrons. They are there to work Allowing your husband to go to a strip club is harmless. The only way something bad will happen

is if Hubby has bad intentions, which, of course, is a different problem Riverside, Calif.: "Disgusted"

should put her foot down and tell her husband this bachelor party is definitely a NO GO. It's not about trust; it's about respect for her feelings. He should stay home with a live naked woman his wife

Denver: Once every few months, I go to a strip club with my husband. He enjoys watching the dancers, and I get the benefit of his enjoyment. At least her husband is honest about going Many men lie to their wives about attending strip clubs because they know their wives

would be angry. It doesn't stop them, though. East Coast: That woman has several problems that need to be addressed by a doctor or counselor. She may have an anxiety disorder, and she obviously has control issues. This woman

should seek therapy and medication. She is dealing with near-crippling insecurities Post Falls, Idaho: Why should a husband or a wife want to do anything that is likely to cause

discomfort to their spouse? The man is a clod in my opinion, and needs to grow up and treat his wife with the respect and consideration she deserves. Annie's Mailbox is written by Kathy

Annie's Mailbox is written by Kathy Miltchell and Marcy Sugar, longtime editors of the Ann Landers column. Please e-mail your questions to annies-mailbox®comcast.net, or write to: Annie's Mailbox, ⟨o'C reators Syndicate, 5777 W. Century Blvd, Suite 700, Los Angeles, CA 90045. Creators Syndicate

GRAFFITI



"I HATE BATHS, BUT I LOVE RAIN!



n-what d'ya say we turn the power off for a while and let the little guv roam around?"



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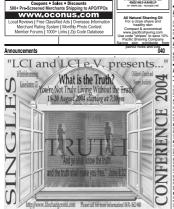
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affect the integral value of the ad, is.e., misspelled words; wrong category (case-by-case); CAPS, bold, italicized incorrectly; it will be corrected, but no makegood will be given. In additional day Starr & Strings per-



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Autos for Sale

- Germany 142 '96 Neon for sale or parts. Light Side Accident.\$650.00. Tom 0160-365-2867.

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BMW 320i Coupe M3 look, 2 owners, dir maint, non-smoker, all orig, perfect shrm cond, \$3350. call 0171-6429114 BMW 330Ci 2004, 6K ml, 6spd, US spec, Prem&CldWtr Pkg, NavSys, XeLts, PkDst Ctl. \$36k 0171-641-5531

BMW 520i '99, euro spec, NAV, tv, Ithr & htd sts, 17' orig whis, fully loaded, 155k km, dbl ab, \$12k obo, call 0641-96611333

BMW 735i '91, auto, Ithr into 2500 eu, BMW 3 Series 500eu, giazza@usa.c

Autos for Sale

BMW 850Cl '93 blk/gray US SPEC, 18" Hamann whis, fully Id, \$25,000 call Henry 01706980435 or DSN 4306369 BMW M5 '93, 120k km, Ger spec, 340 hp, 38l, ex cond, \$9,500 obo, For more info and pics see www.bmwmregistry. com/detail.php?id=452 or call 0160-7123172

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Flat Bravo '96 5spd manual great car, 6cd changer, new tires, clutch, transmission great car, 6od changer, new fires, clutch, transmission \$4,000 obo call 01757-300458

Flat Punt 55S '98, 5dr, Germ spec, 118,200 km, 5spd, pro-grammable htr, dual ab, well maint, \$2900 obo, call 06103-459796 Ford Mondeo SW '00, black, 66k km, V6, pwr str, bwr brk, ex cond, many extras, od, NAV

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480-3673 or 0631-3502780

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Ford Windstar '00, seats 7, 2nd sliding door, rear ac, co, pl, pw wind, tow pkg, \$7500, 3 kL, tow pkg, Joe Lewis 06221-182328 GMC Hi-Top Conv Van '94, CD VCR, ac, auto, ps, pl, capt sts sofa/bed, 110k ml, \$6800 obo

spec silver/red w/bags, ner M E 4 s \$10,000 cal 09641-837734

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Porshce 944 Turbo '86, Ge spec, blk, 270 hp, runs great new Z tires, \$7000, cal 06222-935772 after 1800 Grand Cherokee Lerado '99, 78k km, new TUV, aux heater w/remote, tow pkg, new brakes, 14,300eur, call 06374-801559 kuehle.rengefrennet 44

Jeep Grand Cherokee '01, 49k km, 4.7l V8, full loaded, mint cond, blk, mnrf, Canadian/US spec, \$21k, 0171-6359877

174 Trucks Dodge Ram 1500 PU '00, sb, V8, 5.2L, 2wd. auto hardings ---

cond, \$8800, 09827-927117 Auto Repairs

GARMISHI, investigation of the challet-style hous apots for investment

Summer Shakedown Reggae-Ragga-Soca-Love Friday 6, Aug 4, 22:00hr ZAK Kulturkeiler, Waldstr Offenback 01000

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360

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820

 Purchase of listed pets is at buyer's risk. German Dog Club e.v. recommends checking breeder's club membership be-Beautiful male AKC reg English Buildog, brindle and white, 3yrs old, \$1600 .verv coeffs by

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Houses for rent. No real Call 06122-507943

Apartment Unfurn 856

and ASTRA 700eur +ut 06181-15593

Apartment Unfurn 856

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Homes/Apts for Rent - US

locating to WRAMC, WRAIR
MC or USUHS? 4br, 3 ba
use in MD, gormet kitchen
cod in yard, 5 min walk tr
AMMC commissary & PX
urlooking Rock Creek Park
se access to 495, avail
or sconer, \$2800/month sooner, \$2500.... email if interest

Brand New, Huge Rent in Obernheim, 210 SON, BDRM, 2BA, Irg yard, double garage, no pets, 1800eur obo.



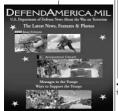
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Hotel Forsthaus Oberau 8 k Nth of Garmisch Hot tub/sau 33eur PP, DBL occp, free brik dogs welcome. 08824-912i www.forsthaus-oberau.de

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Jobs Offered

871

MPRI

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Individuals are needed for positions within Central Germany. Candidates need to have extensive Motor Pool experience maintaining U.S. Army tactical vehicles and equipment. Understanding of contracting procedures would be beneficial. Team players possessing excellent written and verbal communication abilities and a strong analytical talent are essential. Proficiency in the user skills of Microsoft's Office 2000 Suite is necessary. Interested? Fax resume to: 0631-414-3408 or e-mail: hbenco@tonline.de

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MPRI Logistics Analysts

Individuals must have extensive knowledge in the Maintenance and Logistics of U. S. Army tactical combat vehicles. Recent Motor Pool experience with background skills within the Army Vehicle Maintenance Program is necessary. Familiarity of the Procurement, Supply, Transportation disciplines is desirable. active team player with excellent written and verbal communication abilities and a strong computer user skill of Microsoft's Office 2000 Professional Suite is necessary. Employment will be in the Kaiserslautern area. If interested, fax resume to: 0631-414-3408 or e-mail to: hbenco@t-online.de

Employment Opportunities

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REPORTER/PHOTOGRAPHER

Nagles, Italy Salary: \$32,000-\$38,000 Opening Date: 19-Jul-2004 Cutoff Date: N/A Closing Date: 02-Aup-2004

FUROPE BUREAU CHIEF Selary: \$45,000 - \$55,000 Opening Date: 13-Jul-2004 Cutoff Date: N/A Closing Date: 23-Jul-2004

DISTRICT MANAGER AT LARGE

(NTE 13 MONTH) Salary: \$31,500 - \$40,000 Opening Date: 14-Jul-2004 Cutoff Date: N/A Closing Date: 31-Jul-2004

GRAPHIC ARTIST Salary: \$31,500- \$35,000 Opening: Date 25-Jun-2004 Cutoff Date: N/A Closing Date: Until Filled

REPORTER/PHOTOGRAPHER (NTE 13 Months) (2 vacancie Salary \$32,000 - \$38,000 pa Opening Date 15-Jul-2004 Cutoff Date N/A

ADVERTISING SALES ASSISTANT

(2 Regular Full Time) Salary S8.40 - \$12.00 Opening Date 07-Jul-2004 Cutoff Date N/A Closing Date 31-Jul-2004 OFFSET PRINT WORKER

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SCOREBOARD

AFN schedule

(All times Central European. AFN-A AFN-Atlantic; PAC: AFN-Pacific/Korea; SPT-AFN-Sports; did: delayed; cut: two-hour or 90-minute cut-down. Listings are latest avail-able from AFRTS and subject to change with-out notices.

Television

Australian Rules Football — Highlights, 24 m. Saturdy (100), 57 Hz. Scra at Deroit, 2 m. Faldly (201), 57 Hz. Scra at Deroit, 2 m. Fridly (201), 57 Hz. Scra at Deroit, 2 m. Fridly (201), 57 Hz. Scra at Menziero, 4 m. Saturdy, 37 Hz. Scra at Menziero, 4 m. Saturdy, 37 Hz. Scra at Chicago Cubs. 7 pm. Saturdy, 37 Hz. Scra at Chicago Cubs. 7 pm. Saturdy, 37 Hz. Scra at Chicago Cubs. 7 pm. Saturdy, 37 Hz. Scra at Chicago Cubs. 7 pm. Saturdy, 37 Hz. Scra at Chicago Cubs. 7 pm. Saturdy, 37 Hz. Scra at Chicago Cubs. 7 pm. Saturdy, 37 Hz. Scra at Chicago Cubs. 37 pm. Saturdy, 37 pm. Trucks, 580 pm. Saturdy, 37 pm. Saturdy, Australian Rules Football — Highlights, 2 m. Saturday (dld), SPT.

Radio

(Listings are feeds from AFN in California. Some might not air in all areas) Baseball — Boston at Minnesota, 2 a.m. Saturday; Philadelphia at Chicago Cubs, 7 p.m. Saturday; Seattle at Anaheim, 10 p.m. saturday; Boston at Minnesota, 1 a.m. Sun-

aza-yawa or terman civ. 069-156-88-444. Com-mercial callers from outside Germany must drop the initial zero after dialing country code 0049. AFN-Atlantic's Web site is www.afneurope.net. Click on "television" or "radio" for latest schedules. AFN's parent or-ganization, AFRTS at March Reserve AFB, Calif., can be reached at DSN (312) 348-1319 or commercial (309) 413-2319, Its Web site is www.myafn.ac)

Pro soccer

Major League Soccer Eastern Conference W I T Pts GF GA

MetroStars	8	6	5	29	33	34						
Columbus	6	5	6	24	18	18						
D.C. United	5	7	6	21	24	28						
Chicago	4	8	7	19	19	24						
New England	4	8	6	18	22	28						
Western Conference												
Los Angeles	9	5	6	33	35	28						
Kansas City	9	5	5	32	28	18						
Colorado	6	5	8	26	16	17						
Dallas	6	7	5	23	23	25						
San Jose	5	6	6	21	28	26						
NOTE: Three points	for	vic	ctor	y, o	ne p	oint						
for tie.												
Wednesd	lay':	s ga	ame	25								

Columbus 2, Dallas 1 MetroStars 2, Kansas City 1 Colorado 2, Chicago 0 Saturday's game

Saturday's game
All-Star Game at Washington
Saturday, Aug. 7
Columbus at New England
Colorado at Dallas
D.C. United at San Jose

Pro basketball

•	IIIDA											
EASTERN	CONFER	ENC	E									
	w	L	Pct	GB								
Charlotte	12	11	.522	-								
New York	12	11	.522	-								
Connecticut	13	12	.520	-								
Detroit	12	13	.480	1								
Indiana	12	14	.462	11/2								
Washington	10	14	.417	21/2								
WESTERN CONFERENCE												
Los Angeles	17	- 7	.708	-								
Seattle	15	8	.652	11/2								
Minnesota	14	10	.583	3								
Phoenix	11	12	.478	51/2								
Sacramento	11	12	.478	51/2								
Houston	11	14	.440	61/2								
San Antonio	6	18	.250	11								
Tues	day's ga	me										

Tuesday's game
Houston 80, Seattle 55
Wednesday's game
Detroit 73, Washington 65
Charlotte 63, Indiana 53
Minnesota 60, Santiana 63
Thursday's game
Los Angeles at Sacramento
Priday's game
Connecticut at Washington
New York at Detroit

Seattle at Minnesota Phoenix at San Antonio

Golf

PGA Tour statistics

Through July 25 Scoring Average 1, Phil Mickelson, 68.60, 2, Ernie Els. 68.65.

3, Vijay Singh, 69.17. 4, Tiger Woods, 69.29. 5, Stephen Ames, 69.48. 6, Retief Goosen, 69.50. 7, Scott Verplank, 69.64. 8, Sergio Garcia, 69.81. 9, Jay Haas, 69.84. 10, Davis Love III, 69.87.

A soon very service of the control o

1/738. Birdie Average
1, Phil Mickelson, 4.51. 2, Tiger Woods, 4.21. 3, Vijay Singh, 4.18. 4, Adam Scott, 4.16. 5, Ernie Eis, 4.14. 6, Stephen Ames, 4.13. 7 (tie), John Daly, Mark Hensby and Fredrik Jacobson, 3.38. 10, Fred Couples, 3.35.

(tib.) John Bally, Maris benedy and Fredrik, action of the Common of the

Tennis

Masters Canada

Wednesday At Rexall Centre Toronto Purse: \$2.5 million (Masters) Surface: Hard-Outdoor

First Round
Vince Spadea, United States, def. Frank
Dancevic, Canada, 6-1, 6-4.
Fernando Gonzalez, Chile, def. Rainer
Schuettler (8), Germany, 3-6, 6-4, 6-3.
Jiri Novak, Czech Republic, def. Jonas
Bjorkman, Sweden, 5-7, 7-6 (10), 6-0.

yorkman, sweene, 5-7, 7-6 (10), 6-0. Thomas Johansson, Sweden, def. Nicolas lassu (13), Chile, 6-4, 6-4. Ivan Ljubici, Croatia, def. Karol Beck, Slo-akia, 6-2, 5-7, 6-3. Jurgen Melzer, Austria, def. Dominik Hr-aty, Slovakia, 4-6, 7-5, 7-6 (3). Roger Federer (1), Switzerland, def. Hich-m Arazi, Morocco, 6-3, 7-5. Repony, Carrag, Erange, def. Schooti-

am Arazi, Morocco, 6-3, 7-5. Gregory Carraz, France, def. Sebastien Grosjean (12), France, 6-2, 7-6 (3), Feliciano Lopez, Spain, def. Nicolas Es-cude, France, 7-6 (1), 6-7. Carlos Moya (4), Spain, def. Fernando Ver-dasco, Spain, 6-7 (9), 6-3, 6-4. Nicolas Kiefer, Germany, def. Marat Safin (13), Russia, 6-7 (3), 6-4, 7-6 (2).

newww.aneret.cemnany.der.Marvat Safin Frederic Niempey. Canada, def. David Sanchus, Spain, 6-1, 6-4, 16-7, 6-1, 6-4, 16-7, 16-

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Acura Classic

Wednesday
At La Costa Resolari
Carisbad, Calif.
Purse: \$1.3 million (Tier I)
Surface: Hard-Outdoor
Singles
Second Round
ta Martinez, Spain, def. Iveta Benes-

surface: Natro-Outdoor Surface: Natro-Outdoor

Auto racing

Nextel Cup schedule
Feb. 15 – Daytons 500, Daytona Beach, Fla.
(Dale Earnhardt, Fl.)
Feb. 22 – Subway 400, Rockingham, N.C.
March 7 – UAW-DaimferChryspler 400, Las Vegas (Dalt Kensch)
Vegas (Dalt Kensch)
Vegas (Dalt Kensch)
March 21 – Carolina Dodge Dealers 400, Daltar Carolina Dodge Dealers 400, March 22 – Food Old 19, 500, Bristo, Tem.
Nucl Busch)
Supplied College Colle

March 28 — Food City 500, Bristol, Tenn. Kurt Busch) April 4 — Samsung/RadioShack 500, Fort Worth, Texas (Elliott Sadler) April 18 — Advance Auto Parts 500, Martin-wile, Va. (Rusty Wallace) April 25 — Aaron's 499, Talladega, Ala. (Jeff ordon) May 2 — Auto Club 500, Fontana, Calif. (Jeff

Mäy Z – AUTO LIbu 3000, POINLAND AUTO-AUTO- CHEW AMERICAN REVOLUTION 400, Ilchmond, Va. (Dale Earnhardt Jr.) Ilchmond, Va. (Dale Earnhardt Jr.) May 30 – Coca-Cola 600, Concord, N.C. Jimnie Johnson) June 6 – MBNA America 400, Dover, Del. Mark Martin) June 13 – Pocono 500, Long Pond, Pa. (Jim-June 20 – DHL 400, Brooklyn, Mich. (Ryan Howman)

Newman)
June 27 — Dodge/Save Mart 350, Sonoma,
Calif. (Jeff Gordon)
July 3 — Pepsi 400, Daytona Beach, Fla.
(Jeff Gordon)
July 11 — Tropicana 400, Jollet, Ill. (Tony
Stewart)
July 21 — Siemens 300, Loudon, N.H. (Kurt
July 22 — Siemens 300, Loudon, N.H. (Kurt

susch)
Aug. 1 — Pennsylvania 500, Long Pond
Aug. 8 — Brickyard 400, Indianapolis
Aug. 15 — Sirius at The Glen, Watkins Glen,
LY.
Aug. 22 . IV. Aug. 22 — Michigan 400, Brooklyn Aug. 28 - Sharpie 500, Bristol, Tenn. Sept. 5 — Pop Secret 500, Fontana, Calif. Sept. 11 — Chevrolet Monte Carlo 400. Rich-

Sept. 11 — Chevrolet Monte Carlo 400, Rich nond, Va. Sept. 19 — Sylvania 300, Loudon, N.H. Sept. 26 — MBNA America 400, Dover, Del. Oct. 3 — EA Sports 500, Talladega, Ala. Oct. 10 — Banquet 400, Kansas Čity, Kan. Oct. 16 — UAW-GM Quality 500, Concord Ct.

Oct. 24 — Subway 500, Martinsville, Va. Oct. 31 — Bass Pro Shops MBNA 400, Hamp

Busch Series schedule

Feb. 14.— Hershey's Kisses 300, Daytona Feb. 14.— Hershey's Kisses 300, Daytona Feb. 21.— Goody's Headache Prowder 200, Ockrighan Nr. C. (Jamie McMurro) March 6.— Sam's Town 300, Las Vegas March 6.— Sam's Town 300, Las Vegas America C. (Jamie McMurro) G. (Greg Biffle), G. (Greg Bif

(Matt Kenseth)
April 10 — Pepsi 300, Gladeville, Tenn.
(Michael Waltrip)
April 24 — Aaron's 312, Talladega, Ala.
(Martin Truez Ir.)
May 1 — Stater Bros. 300, Fontana, Calif.
(Greg Biffle)

May 8 - Charter 250, Gateway, III. (Martin Truex Jr.)
May 14 — Funai 250, Richmond, Va. (Kyle Busch)

Busch)

May 23 — Goulds Pumps ITT Industries
200, Nazareth, Pa. (Martin Truex Jr.)

May 29 — Carquest Auto Parts 300, Concord, N.C. (Kyle Busch)

June 5 — MBNA America 200, Dover, Del. June 5 -(Greg Biffle)

(ureg stiffle)
June 12 — Featured Auto Parts 300, Gladev-lille, Tenn. (Jason Leffler)
June 19 — Meijler 300, Sparta, Ky. (Kyle Busch)
June 26 — Alan Kulwicki 250, The Milwau-kee Mille (Ron Hornaday Ir.)

July 2 — Allah Kunwicki 230, I ne Milwau-kee Mille (Ron Hornaday Jr.) July 2 — Winn-Dixle 250, Daytona Beach, Fla. (Mike Wallace) July 10 — Twister 300, Chicago (Justin La-honta) onte) July 24 — Siemens 200, Loudon, N.H. (Matt K

enseth) July 31 — Goulds Pumps/ITT Industries 50, Pikes Peak Int'l Raceway, Colorado Springs
Aug. 7 – Kroger 200, Indianapolis
Aug. 21 – Cabela's 250, Brooklyn, Mich.
Aug. 27 – Food City 250, Bristol, Tenn.
Sept. 4 – Californiaspeedway.com 300,

Sept. 19 — Caniorinaspeeuway.com 300, ontana Sept. 10 — Emerson 250, Richmond, Va. Sept. 25 — Stacker 200, Dover, Del. Oct. 9 — Mr. Goodcents 300, Kansas City,

an. Oct. 15 — Little Trees 300, Concord, N.C. Oct. 23 — Sam's Town 250, Memphis, Tenn. Oct. 30 — Aaron's 312, Atlanta Nov. 6 — Bashas' Supermarkets 200, Phoe-

ilx
Nov. 13 — South Carolina 200, Darlington
Nov. 20 — Ford 300, Homestead, Fla.

Driver standings
1. Martin Truex Jr., 293
2. Kyle Busch, 2,899 3. Ron Hornaday Jr., 4. Jason Leffler, 2,60 5. David Green, 2,595 2.655

Boxing

Fight schedule

Fight Schedule

At Freedom Hay an Louiselle, Ny, Mile Typon, Catsalili, N.Y., vs. Damy, Williams, Britalia, I.O. between the Help Scheduler, School, Catsalili, N.Y., vs. Damy, Williams, Britalia, I.O. between the Help Scheduler, School, Catsalili, N.Y., vs. Damy, Williams, Catsalili, N.Y., vs. Damy, Williams, Catsalili, N. D. School, Catsalili, N. D. School, Catsalili, N. D. School, Catsalili, N. D. School, Catsalili, N. Catsalili,

At The Orleans Hotel and Casino, Las egas, Jose Luis Cruz, Mexico, vs. Dario Jose

offer The Services in Prop. 1970. A service of the Services of

for Calderon's WBO light rhyweight title.

Aug. 7

Aug

Aug. 13
At Pechanga Reort and Casino, Temecula, Calif., Joachim Alcine, Canada, vs. J.C.
Candelo, Denver. 12, for Alcine's Wild Fedalatin super welterweight title.
At the Mod Grand Garden Arena, Las
Vegas, Oscar De La Hoya, East Los Angeles.
Vegas, Oscar De La Hoya, East Los Angeles.
Vegas, Oscar De La Hoya, East Los Angeles.

At Mandales Sept. 4

Mandales Sept. 4

Mandales Sept. 4

Mandales Sept. 5

Casino Las

Sept. 4
At Mandalay Bay Resort & Casino, Las
Vegas, Cory Spinks, St. Louis, vs. Migue
Angel Gonzalez, Mexico, 12, for Spinks
BF-WBA-WBC welterweight title; Lamor
Brewster, Los Angeles, vs. Kali Meehan, Aus
tralia, 12, for Brewster's WBO title.

7...10

Oct. 2 At Madison Square Garden, New York, Felix Trinidad, vs. Ricardo Mayorga, 12, middleweights.

Deals

Wednesday's transactions

AUTO RACING
PPI MOTORSPORTS—Signed Bobby Hamilon Jr. to drive in the 2005 NASCAR Nextel

AMERICAN CONTROL THE 2005 NASCAR MESSEL

AMERICAN CASPA

AMERICAN

A

National Basketball Association CHARLOTTE BOBCATS—Signed F Bernard

Robinson.

MIAMI HEAT—Re-signed F Rasual Butler.

WASHINGTON WIZARDS—Announced they will match Milwaukee's six-year offer sheet of F-C Etan Thomas.

Women's National Basketball Association

Women's National Basketball Association
MINNESOTA L'YNX—Activated C Michele
Van Gorp from the Injured list. Placed G
Katle Smith on the Injured list. Staced G
Katle Smith of the Injured List.

Katle Smith of the Injured List.

National Football League
ARIZONA CARDINALS—Signed QB John Navarre.

rarre.

CAROLINA PANTHERS—Signed QB Steve
Reverlein and announced his retirement. euerlein and announced his retirement. CHICAGO BEARS—Agreed to terms with DT ommie Harris on a five-year and WR Bernard Berrian on a four-year contracts.

CINCINNATI BENGALS—Signed WR Mau-ice Mann to a three-year contract.

DALLAS COWBOYS—Signed OL Stephen Pe-

terman.

DENVER BRONCOS—Agreed to terms with
LB D.J. Williams.

DETROIT LIONS—Signed LB Teddy Lehman
to a four-year and RB Kevin Jones to a ve-year contracts. HOUSTON TEXANS—Signed CB Vontez Duff

and S Glenn Earl.
INDIANAPOLIS COLTS—Signed QB Jim Sorgi, LB Kendyll Pope, DB Jason David, OT Jake Scott, DB Von Hutchins and K David Kimall. NEW ENGLAND PATRIOTS—Signed OL ames Williams.

NEW YORK GIANTS—Waived TE Darnell Din-dins and OL Mathias Nkwenti. Claimed DT Willie Blade off waivers from Dallas. Signed

E Radell Lockhart. PHILADELPHIA EAGLES—Waived T Damian

PRILAUBLE THE LEASE SIGNED IS A STATE OF THE STATE OF THE

ATLANTA IHRADHEND—Myreco to with C Patrik Stefan.

BOSTON BRUINS—Agreed to terms with War Tom Fitzgerald on a two-year contract.

BUFFALO SABRES—Agreed to terms with W Taylor Pyatt, D Jeff Jilison, D Henrik allinder and D Brian Campbell on one-year ontracts. CAROLINA HURRICANES—Re-signed C

Kevyn Adams to a one-year contract.

CHICAGO BLACKHAWKS—Agreed to terms
with G Jocelyn Thibault on a one-year conact. TAMPA BAY LIGHTNING—Signed C Jarrod kalde and D Steve McLaren to multiyear

Skaide and D Steve McLaren to multiyear contracts. WASHINGTON CAPITALS—Re-signed LW Matt Pettinger, LW Graham Mink and D Nolan Yonkman to one-year contracts. COLLEGE ALBION—Named Jared Schock women's

Station - Named Saled Solidor Women's as-sistant basketball coach, Marco Chung men's assistant soccer coach, Rachel damu women's assistant soccer coach, and Heather MacCulloch assistant softball coker-Named Chuck Mullen women's

olleyball coach. FLORIDA TECH—Named Janie Farina women's golf coach.
FURMAN -Named Elaine Baker associate
thietic director, Dan Brinkman director of
compliance and academics, Chris Colvin asistant athletic director for operations, and
cer Pettus director of athletic development.
LEMMAN -Named John Mehling basebail
oach and Dave Reina assistant baseball

oacn. LOYOLA. MD.—Named Matt Dawn men's

LOYOLA, MD.—Named Mart Dawn men's ssistant lacrosse coach. N.J. CITY—Named Brian Barrow women's ssociate soccer coach. PENNSYLYANIA—Named Patrick Knapp women's basketball coach. PHILADELPHIA—Named Phil Karn men's as-istant soccer coach.

istant soccer coach.

SAINT JOSEPH'S—Announced the resignaions of Jim Ertel, baseball coach, Paul Perdue,
nen's lacrosse coach, and Kevin Bonner, assisant director of athletic communications. stant direction destributed on normal artiflett, assistant base that a country as a sastant base that locach.

TEAS CHESTA-Named Chris Cunningham women's assistant base that locach.

TEAS CHESTANT—Named Partick Cunniff assistant track and fleak-oscil.

Assistant track and fleak-oscil.

WIDEME—Named Rainbow A. Shaw-dia-quinto women's and women's tennis coach.

WIDEME—Named Rainbow A. Shaw-dia-quinto women's assistant volleyal coach.

Announced base of the country of t

as Baptist.

YALE—Named Katle Granson women's as-istant tennis coach.

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RACING STRIPES

Stewart answers critics in Victory Lane

NASCAR's bad boy does his best when the heat is most intense

BY JENNA FRYER The Associated Press

CHARLOTTE, N.C. - When the going gets tough for Tony Stewart, he responds the only way he can - by answering his critics on the race track.

NASCAR's reigning bad boy and 2002 Cup champion has shaken off one controversy after another to string together three consecutive top-five finishes and his only victory of the season.

"We've been through so much controversy in my whole career in the Cup series, anymore I'm just kind of numb to it all," Stewart said. "It's not a distraction to me, it's not an aggravation to me. I've found a way to simplify everything and not worry about it.'

Under fire most of the season from his fellow competitors for aggressive driving, things boiled tion with rookie Brian Vickers fol-

lowing the race in Sonoma, Calif. Vickers claimed Stewart hit him in the chest while he was sitting inside his car, and NASCAR gave careful consideration to suspending Stewart before the July 3

race at Daytona. When Stewart was instead fined and placed on probation, his rivals wondered how he avoided a stiffer punishment.

Stewart ignored them and finished fifth at Daytona.

He then won his first race of the season at Chicago, but that marred, too. Stewart was knocked Kasev Kahne out of his way en route to victory and a fight erupted in the pits between Kahne's crew and Stewart's crew

Stewart tuned that out, too, along with the boos that rained down on him in Victory Lane.



Tony Stewart, who won the series title in 2002, said, "We've been through so much controversy in my whole career in the Cup series, anymore I'm just kind of numb to it all. ... I've found a way to ... not worry about it."

"Tony Stewart is ery emotional. But

very emotional. But ... he's easygoing, he's laid back, he's fun to be around and he's got a good sense of humor. So you've got to take the good and try to balance that out."

Stewart's team owner



Snippets on Stewart

pended. ... Nobody has ever really grabbed him and given him a good beating. If he doesn't get suspended, maybe I'll do

Ray Evernham Kahne's car owner



people, ... I don't think he's grown up as far as really understanding how the public looks at him. He'll eventually learn to look at the big ger picture.

Richard Petty

around him grew to sizable proportions. "He definitely needs to get sus-

pended," Ray Evernham, Kahne's car owner, fumed after the Chicago altercation Evernham also said Stewart could use a "good beating."

the firestorm

"That's the problem with him," he added. "Nobody has ever really grabbed him and given him a good beating. If he doesn't get suspended, maybe I'll do that

Stewart kept racing, and fin-

ished fifth last week in New Hampshire.

He heads into this weekend's event at Pocono Raceway in fourth place in the driver standings and a favorite for the Nextel Cup title when the 10-race playoffs begin in September.

It's a trend Stewart has followed throughout his NASCAR career: When he's in the most trouble, he has his best races. The theory was proven in 2002 when Stewart punched a photographer following the race in Indianapo-

This week: Goulds Pumps/ITT Indus-tries 250 at Fountain, Colo. (Tape-de-layed, 1 p.m. Sunday, SPT). Last race: Matt Kenseth, the reigning Nextel Cup champion, won the Sig-mens 200 at Loudon, N.H., by about six car-lengths over Tim Fedewa. Kenseth

Last year: Scott Wimmer won the usch 250 at Pikes Peak in a race that

FORMULA ONE

had a track-record 15 lead changes Wimmer led 70 laps and took the lead for good on the 227th lap by overtaking

lis, then rebounded to win the next week at Watkins Glen. "When I'm in the race car, my

job is to go out and win the race," Stewart said. "And that's what my passion and desire is, whether its in a midget or in a sprint car or in the Nextel Cup car."

No one denies Stewart creates ton of aggravation for his Joe Gibbs Racing team and is often a major headache for Atlan-ta-based sponsor Home Depot. The company was embarrassed

SEE CRITICS ON PAGE 30

NASCAR NEXTEL CUP

Race 20: Pennsylvania 500, 7:30 p.m. Sunday, AFN-Atlantic.

Last race: Kurt Busch took advantage of Ryan Newman's late mishap and pulled away from Jeff Gordon to win the Siemens 300 at Loudon N.H. Rusch was the only driver to stay with pole-winner Newman through most of the race, passing him twice and, finally, pulling away from Newman and runner-up



Rusty Wallace, 144.892 mph, July 21, 1996

Gordon at the end for his second win of the season and 10th of his career. Busch's first win since Bristol in March moved him from ninth to sixth in the driver standings. Last year: Late caution flags helped New

man stretch his gas to the end, allowing him to hold off Busch and win the Pennsylvania 500.

3. Jeff Gordon

Dale Earnhardt Jr.
drove the first 61
laps at Loudon before being replaced
by Martin Truex Jr.
Earnhardt Jr. was
burned on his legs,
neck and chin after
crashing during an
American LeMans Series practice the praries practice the p

us week. ... Ryar vman had his firs top-10 finish since winning last month a 20. Terry Labonte 2,009

After 19 of 36 races

1. Jimmie Johnson 2.850 2 Dala Fambardt Ir 2 685 2.648 4. Tony Stewart 2.548 5 Matt Kenseth 2 481

2 396 8. Elliott Sadler 2,370 2.353 9. Kevin Harvick 2,348

18. Sterling Marlin 2,041

11. Jeremy Mayfield 2.242 12. Dale Jarrett 2,221 13. Jamie McMurray 2.214 14. Kasey Kahne 2,186 15 Mark Martin 2 156 16. Michael Waltrip 2.110 17. Casey Mears 2,083

2,038

This week: Michigan Indy 400 at Brooklyn, Mich. (9 p.m. Sunday, PAC). Last race: Dario Franchitti won his first IRL race, taking the inaugural Me-nards A.J. Foyt Indy 225 at The Mil-

stone 400 at Michigan with the firstest verage speed in circuit history, 180,916 nph. Barron won by 0.0121 seconds. Next race: Belterra Casino Indy 300,

CHAMP CARS

This week: Grand Prix of Road Ameria in Elkhart, Wis.
Last race: Paul Tracy vaulted back into

This week: Truck Bedliners 200 in ooklyn, Mich. (7 p.m. Saturday, PAC).

secosity, mich. (7 pm. Saturday, PAC).
Last race: David Starr became just
the second truck driver to win by lean
ing only the final jap at the Dodge Ram
Last year: Brendan Gaughan ran the
Satest race in truck history in the
Sears 200 in Michigan. Gaughan averCity mark of 142,650 set in 200 at BusCity mark of 142,650 set in 200.
Next race: Power Stroke Diesel 200,
Aug. 6, Indianapolis.

Manning gets rookie record \$20M signing bonus

BY DAVE GOLDBERG

The Associated Press

NEW YORK — Top overall draft pick Eli Manning agreed Thursday to a \$54 million, six-year contract with the New York Giants that will pay him a rookie-record \$20 million signing bonus.

The Ole Miss quarterback's bonus is believed to be the second highest in NFL history, behind only the \$34.5 million the Indianapolis Colts gave his brother Peyton in March. That deal also was negotiated by agent Tom Condon, who represents both Mannings.

The Giants began training camp practices Thursday in Albany.

Team spokesman Pat Hanlon confirmed

a deal with Manning was reached.

New York traded for Manning after he

made it clear that he did not want to play for the San Diego Chargers, who had the No. 1 pick in April's draft. The Giants, who had the fourth overall choice, took another quarterback, Philip Rivers, then traded him to the Chargers along with several draft picks for the rights to Manning.

The main sticking point in contract talks between Condon and the Giants was not the amount of money but the complicated pokie salary can

Because the Giants traded a player for Manning, they were allocated money under the rookie salary cap that goes with the fourth pick. Had they traded the pick rather than the player they would have been allowed to offer No. 1 pick money.

Still, Giants General Manager Ernie Accorsi said they would pay top-pick money to Manning. Accorsi said this week he was confident a deal would get done.

Manning's signing is expected to clear the way for several high first-round picks to sign. Rivers is also seeking No. 1 money, even though he was chosen fourth.

even mougn ne was cnosen fourth.

Two other first-round draft choices joined their teams Wednesday.

Defensive tackle Tommie Harris, the

14th overall selection, signed with Chicago. Running back Kevin Jones, chosen 30th, came to terms with Detroit.

Still, the Lions are trying to sign wide receiver Roy Williams, whom they took with seventh overall selection.

The signings brought to 12 the number of first-round choices in the fold. The second overall pick, offensive tackle Robert Gallery, was reportedly close to a deal with the Oakland Raiders.

None of the first-round picks represented by the Poston bruthers have signed—tight end Kellen Winslow Jr. of Cleveland, wide receiver Reggie Williams of Jackson-ville and cornerback Chris Gamble of Carvina. The Browns have begun talking with Kevin Poston, and the Panthers have been talking to Carl Poston about Gamble, but Carolina General Manager Marty Hursey indicated on Wethensday that a deal wasn't

Kevin Poston spent four hours meeting Wednesday with Browns President John Collins at the team's headquarters, a possible sign the sides want a deal finalized by Friday when the club holds its first full-squad workout.

Coach Butch Davis reported progress in the talks, but he isn't counting on having Winslow, the No. 6 overall pick from Miami in for the start of camp

Critics: Racer has raised millions for charity

STEWART, FROM PAGE 29

in its hometown earlier this month when the No. 20 Chevrolet was heartily booed as it drove around the field during an Atlanta Braves game.

But all that is overshadowed by

a tremendous talent on the track that forces those around him to overlook the bad things.

"Tony Stewart is very emotional," Gibbs said last week. "But I think he's one of the neatest guys — he's easygoing, he's laid back, he's fun to be around and he's got a good sense of humor. "So you've got to take the good

and try to balance that out."

Often lost in Stewart's negative actions is his off-track charity. He's helped raise millions of dollars for Kyle Petty's Victory Junction Gang camp, just one of several organizations he helps out, and was recently given NASCAR's "Good Guy" award by The Sporting News.

How could the Bad Boy of NASCAR also get the Good Guy award?

"He's two different people from the standpoint that he's given us a bunch of money for Victory Junction," Richard Petry said. "Yet he goes around and does some childish stuff. I don't hink he's grown up as far as really understanding how the public looks at him.

"He'll eventually learn to look at the bigger picture." Gibbs thinks Stewart already

is. He said last week that Stewart must perform as if he has "two strikes against him" and that the driver finally understands that.

"I think what Tony has to understand is his past, and he has had situations there and he can't be put in those situations again," Gibbs said. "I think he's determined to do that. We're not looking to control him. He just has to be careful about the situations he gets in, knowing how much publicity it gets.

"Whenever Tony Stewart does something, it's a big deal."

System, supporting cast have Vick eager

BY KEITH PARSONS

The Associated Press

GREENVILLE, S.C. — Michael Vick tossed a perfect spiral about 50 yards toward the corner of the end zone, where Peerless Price outran a defender to catch the ball just as he tumbled into the end zone.

It was a spectacular play — even if it came Wednesday on the first day of training camp — and clearly showed that the Atlanta Falcons' variation of the West Coast offense won't strictly be short passes over the middle.

"I think he is the right guy," Falcons quarterback coach Mike Johnson said of Vick. "Will he ever be a straight drop-back guy where you thrown the ball 25 times in the pocket? That's not him. You're taking away from his strengths if you do that."

Vick spent the offseason studying video and learning the new playbook, and he attended most of the voluntary workouts. He got to know new offensive coordinator Greg Knapp, who installed a similar offense to the one he used the previous three years with the San Francisco 49ers.

So far, Vick appears to be having fun, and he's heard plenty of good things about this style of play from cousin Aaron Brooks, the starting quarterback for the New Orleans Saints.

"A lot of guys enjoy playing in this system," Vick said. "I talked to my cousin, and he's enjoyed playing in it. I'm excited about being one of the best quarter-



Quarterback Michael Vick is having fun learning a new offense that Falcons coaches insist will take advantage of his unique skills.

backs in the league, and I'm just trying to get into a system where I can do that."

For the first time, Vick also likely has the supporting cast to help him reach his goal. Price moved back to flanker after the Falcons signed free agent Dez White as their other wide receiver and the

shift should help Price get closer to the career-high 94 catches he

had in 2002 with Buffalo.

Last season, his first with Atlanta, Price had only 64 receptions and three touchdowns, his lowest total since 2000.

"It's more of a comfort level thing," Price said. "That's where I played my whole career, except for last year. It's just more freedom. It's easier to get off the line and de things"

Vick and Price never got much of a chance to bond on the field in 2003, since Vick broke his leg in the preseason and missed nearly 12 games. Now, with this new offense, they get a chance to learn each other's moves all over again.

"I actually played this offense before, during my third year in Buffalo," Price said. "I put up decent numbers and I wasn't even the featured guy, that was [Eric] Moulds

"But now that I'm that guy, I think it's going to be great. This offense fits all of us."

Getting back on the field capped a hectic summer for Vick. Besides his work with the Falcons and making sure his injured leg was completely healed, he had to deal with two arrests of his younger brother, Marcus, who fol

lowed him to Virginia Tech.
Marcus Vick was suspended indefinitely from the team earlier
this month after he was charged
with reckless driving and possession of marijuana. In May, the
20-year-old Vick was sentenced
to 30 days in jail and fined \$2,250
on three counts of contributing to
the delinquency of a minor after
he and two teammates gave alcohol to 14- and 15-year-old girls at

the players' apartment.

Through it all, Michael Vick supported his brother, and that continued Wednesday.

continued Wednesday.

"I think he'll be fine, man,"
Michael Vick said. "Just sitting
out, he'll be all right."

Williams admits he failed a third drug test

he Associated Pres.

MIAMI — Retired Dolphins running back Ricky Williams said he failed a third drug test for marijuana use, which would cost him a four-game suspension if he decides to return to the NFL, The Miami Herald reported on its Web site Thursday.

Williams told the newspaper that marijuana played a larger role in his retirement than he initially indicated. He said he learned of the failed test and possible suspension days before telling coach Dave Wannstedt last week that he was through playing. Williams said, however, that there were "a hundred reasons" for his retirement and that his desire to continue smoking marijuana was only one of them. "I didn't quit football because I failed a

drug test," he told the Herald. "I failed a drug test because I was ready to quit football." Williams told the newspaper that he is not

Williams told the newspaper that he is not addicted to marijuana.

In May, three South Florida newspapers quoted unidentified sources saying Williams tested positive for marijuana and faced a fine of at least \$650,000 for violating the substance-abuse policy for the second time since

He told the Herald for Thursday's story that

He told the Herald for Thursday's story that he already decided to quit football before that second positive test. He appealed that fine, but received word last week that his appeal had been denied, the Herald reported.

While the appeal was pending, Williams said, he continued smoking marijuana during a trip to Europe and failed a third test upon his return.

He said he had been using a masking agent to cleanse his system while being randomly tested for two seasons but he didn't do that before the last test.

A's Mulder first to earn 14th win

The Associated Press

OAKLAND, Calif. — Mark Mulder's season has gone so well, it was fitting he found a way to win despite being outpitched.

The Seattle Mariners have struggled so mightily, it was not surprising to see them give this one away.

Mulder earned his 14th victory when pinch-hitter Mark Kotsay



singled home the winning run in the ninth inning, and the Oakland Athletics beat Seattle or the Mariners'

beat Seattle 3-2 Wednesday for the Mariners' team-record 15th straight road

loss.

The A's won their fifth in a row as Mulder (14-3) pitched his fifth complete game of the season. Mulder gave up eight hits in becoming the majors' top winner this season. Texas' Kenny Rogers later lost while trying for his 14th victory when Anaheim beat the Rangers 2-0. That pulled the A's within a half-game of first-place Texas heading into a four-game road series against the Rangers sattring Friday.

said. "Sometimes we don't wake up until two o'clock. Sometimes you've got to wait it out, and that's why I tried to do."

Twins 5, White Sox 4 (10): Jacque Jones hit a go-ahead single in the 10th inning right after Chicago shortstop Jose Valentin dropped his foul popup with two outs, and Minnesota completed a

three-game sweep in Chicago.
The Twins won for the 10th
time in 12 tries and moved 3½
games ahead of the White Sox in
the AL Central. Minnesota has
won four in a row and Chicago
has lost four straight.

Orioles 4, Red Sox 1: Dave Borkowski took a two-hitter into the eighth inning, and Javy Lopez hit two homers off Curt Schilling in Baltimore.

Facing a torrid-hitting club that scored 39 runs on 52 hits in its previous four games, Borkowski (2-2) allowed three hits in seven-plus innings. He struck out seven and walked none.

Indians 5, Tigers 4: Scott Elarton won for the first time in 18 starts, and Casey Blake's two-run homer in the seventh inning lifted host Cleveland.



Oakland Athletics' Mark Mulder on Wednesday became the first pitcher in the majors to win 14 games this season.

Sept. 19, 2003, for Colorado.

Devil Rays 10, Royals 1: Mark

Devil Rays 10, Royals 1: Mark Hendrickson gave up four hits in his second complete game in three starts and Tampa Bay handed Kansas City its sixth straight loss.

Jose Cruz Jr., Aubrey Huff and Tino Martinez homered for the host Devil Rays, who have won two in a row following a six-game losing streak. Tampa Bay hit just 17 homers the previous 24 games.

Blue Jays 3, Yankees 2 (10): Vernon Wells homered in the 10th inning and Carlos Delgado had a tying RBI double in the

eighth to lead Toronto at home. Wells homered off Scott Proctor (1-1) with one out as Toronto avoided a three-game sweep. In the top of the 10th, Wells robbed Derek Jeter of extra bases with a running

Save: Lackey finally gets past Rangers

SAVE, FROM BACK PAGE

Lackey (9-9) won for the fifth time in six decisions, tying a season high with seven strikeouts, walking one and retiring 15 of his last 16 batters after losing his other two starts against Texas this season.

"It was kind of a mixed feeling after the eighth," he said. "I knew Percy was at 299, so I wanted to give him an opportunity at 300. But I also felt good, and I thought I could finish it. I left it in his hands, and he told me to go back out there."

The victory was Lackey's third in eight career decisions against the Rangers — including his first major league shutout, and the game that clinched a wild-card berth for the Angels two years

Lackey retired his first nine batters before giving up a leadoff single in the fourth to Michael Young. Texas' only other hits were a single by Teixeira and a leadoff double by Gary Matthews

Jr. in the fifth.

Kenny Rogers (13-4), starting
on the 10th anniversary of his perfect game against the Angels, allowed two runs — one earned —
and nine hits in seven-plus innings. The All-Star left-hander
struck out one and walked none.

get our pitch. We have to have a better approach against a guljike that and make adjustiments. When we have Kenny pitching for us, he deserves better." The loss reduced the Rangers' lead in the AL West to a half-game over Oakland and

us," Texas' Laynce Nix said.
"Lackey had good command, and

we just weren't patient enough to

lead in the AL West to a half-game over Oakland and three over the third-place Angels. Anaheim opened the scoring in the second when All-Star third

the second when All-Star third baseman Hank Blalock fielded Molina's routine grounder with plenty of time to get Erstad at the plate—and made a wide throw to Gerald Laird. Angels center fielder Garret

Anderson, who didn't start the previous five games because of a strained groin, returned to the lineup as the DH and drove in Anaheim's second run with a fielder's choice grounder in the fifth.

Notes: Blalock has just 11 hits in his last 72 at-hats, and none in his last 17... Lackey has walked no more than two batters in 8 of his 20 starts this season, and has given up fewer than three earned runs in seven of his last eight out, ings... The Rangers were shut out in consecutive games for the second time this season. It also happened May 26-27 against the



Stop by your local BX/PX and SAVE NOW!

s.Oliven°







Astros 6, Diamondbacks 1

Major League Baseball scoreboard

jo. Louguo Luconum			
American League East Division	Orioles 4, Red Sox 1	Texas Rogers L,13-4 7 9 2 1 0 1 JeNelson 1/3 0 0 0 1 0	Atlanta
W L Pct GB New York 63 37 630 —	Damon cf 4 0 0 0 BRhrts 2h 3 0 1 0		Atlanta RuOrtiz W,12-6 7 9 0 0 0 4 Reitsma ³ / ₂ 2 0 0 0 1 Smoltz S,22 1 ¹ / ₂ 0 0 0 0 0
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akland at Texas eattle at Anaheim Friday's games altimore (Cabrera 8-4) at N.Y. Yankees	ARdrs 3 1 1 1 V Wells CT 4 2 1 1 ARdrs 3 4 0 2 0 CDlgdo 1b 3 0 1 1 Matsuilf 3 0 2 0 Wdwrd ss 0 0 0 0	Atlanta I, Pittsburgh 0 Florida 6, Philadelphia 3 St. Louis 11. Cincinnati 10	ell (31). HR—Choi (15). SB—Pierre (26), Low- ell (5). CS—AGonzalez (1).
altimore (Cabrera 8-4) at N.Y. Yankees frown 7-1) hicago White Sox (Garland 7-7) at Detroit	Siffine Of T 3 1 1 V Wells C 4 2 1 1 4 A 2 1 1	Milwaukee 6, Chicago Cubs 3 Houston 6, Arizona 1	
nicago White Sox (Garland 7-7) at Detroit iderman 6-7) ironto (Towers 5-3) at Tampa Bay (Hala- 5-4)	Posada c 1 0 0 0 Ctinotto dh 4 0 1 1 FWilso 2b 3 0 2 1 Gomez ss 4 0 1 0	San Diego 9, San Francisco 4 Thursday's games	BMyers 5 6 3 3 4 5 BPowell 1 0 0 0 0 0 Hancock 1 0 0 0 1 0 Worrell L3-4 1 1 3 3 1 3
oronto (Towers 5-3) at Tampa Bay (Hala- 5-4) akland (Harden 5-5) at Texas (Narron	Cairo 2b 1 0 0 0 OHudsn 2b 4 0 0 0 Totals 35 2 9 2 Totals 36 3 10 3	Atlanta at Pittsburgh N.Y. Mets at Moontreal Philipsolophy at Florida	Mancock 1 0 0 1 0 Worrell L,3-4 1 1 3 3 1 3
oston (Arroyo 3-7) at Minnesota (Lohse	NEW YORK Spr No No No No No No No N	Chicago Cubs at Milwaukee Arizona at Houston	Penny 5 5 2 2 1 4
eveland (Westbrook 8-5) at Kansas City inderson 1-9) eattle (Meche 1-5) at Anaheim (Ra.Ortiz	Toronto 2. LOB -New York 5, Toronto 8, 28—CDelgado (11), Johnson (18), HR—Sheffield (22), Wells (12), SB—Rios (5), CS—ARodriguez (3).	San Frigoscoo 2 7 7 24 7 246 127 7 24 7 24 7 24 7 24 7 24 7 24 7 24	2 1 0 0 0
attle (Meche 1-5) at Anaheim (Ra.Ortiz	driguez (3). IP H RER BB SO	Philadelphia (Milton 11-2) at Chicago Cubs (Prior 2-2)	Penny pitched to 2 batters in the 6th, Penny pitched to 2 batters in the 6th. HBP— by Worrell (Lowell) T—3:03 A—17.404
Saturday's games altimore at N.Y. Yankees aattle at Anaheim rornto at Tampa Bay nicago White Sox at Detroit	New York Lieber 7º/3 7 2 2 2 4 Heredia 0 1 0 0 0 0 Quantrill 1º/3 1 0 0 0 0 Proctor L,1-1 1º/3 1 1 1 0 0	6-3) N.Y. Mets (Trachsel 9-7) at Atlanta (Hamp-	(30,331).
ronto at Tampa Bay ilcano White Sox at Detroit	P	(Prior 2-2) Houston (Munro 2-2) at Cincinnati (Harang 6-3) N.Y. Mets (Trachsel 9-7) at Atlanta (Hampton 6-8) Montreal (L.Hernandez 7-10) at Florida (Beckett 4-5)	Cardinals 11, Reds 10 ST. LOUIS CINCINNATI
ston at Minnesota veland at Kansas City	MBatista 7 8 2 2 2 1 Chulk 1 0 0 0 1 1		
kland at Texas Sunday's games	Toronto Toront	(D.Davis 9-9) Arizona (Johnson 10-8) at Colorado (Jen- nings 9-8) Los Angeles (Weaver 7-10) at San Diego (Eaton 6-8) St. Louis (Carpenter 10-4) at San Francisco (J.Williams 9-7)	
Sunday's games Itimore at N.Y. Yankees icago White Sox at Detroit ronto at Tampa Bay kland at Texas		(Laton 6-8) St. Louis (Carpenter 10-4) at San Francisco (J.Williams 9-7)	Ritterial SS 12 0 VII Wall IT 3 0 1 1 0 1 1 1 4 Rolen 3b 6 3 4 3 GWhite p 0 0 0 0 0 6 Gmdnd cf 2 2 2 1 Losatro sS 2 0 0 0 Tquchi cf 3 1 2 0 Casey 1b 5 1 0 0 Cedeno if 3 0 1 1 Dunn if 3 2 2 1 RSndrs rf 6 1 2 1 Dimnz 2b 2 0 0 0 0 Mbosu 6 1 2 1 Dimnz 2b 2 0 0 0 0 0 0 0 0 0 0 0 0 0 0 0 0 0
land at Texas ton at Minnesota	Indians 5, Tigers 4 DETROIT abrhbi	Saturday's games Houston at Cincinnati Philadelphia at Chicago Cubs	Cedeno If 3 0 1 1 Dunn If 3 2 2 1 RSndrs rf 6 1 2 1 DJmnz 2b 2 0 0 0
tion at Minnesota veland at Kansas City ittle at Anaheim	JSmith 2b 4 2 2 1 Blliard 2b 4 0 0 1	Montreal at Florida N.Y. Mets at Atlanta	Sunnan n 3 1 0 0 Vientin c 1 0 1 2
Wednesday	CGillen ss 4 2 2 2 Vizquel ss 4 2 1 0 IRdrgz c 4 0 1 0 Lawton If 5 0 2 1 DYong dh 3 0 0 1 VMrtnz c 4 1 2 0 RoWhte If 4 0 1 0 Blake 3b 4 1 3 3	(J.Williams S-7) Jennes Lovy at an Intrinsico (J.Williams S-7) Jennes Love at a carefunda per la carefunda (J. W. Mets at Atlanta N. Mets at Atlanta Arizona at Colorado Los Angeles at San Diego St. Louis at San Sunday's games N.Y. Mets at Atlanta Houston at Circichinati	Kline p 0 0 0 0 WPena cf 5 0 0 0
wins 5, White Sox 4 (10)	RoWhte If 4 0 1 0 Blake 3b 4 1 3 3 CPena 1b 4 0 0 0 Merloni 1b 4 0 0 0 Thmes rf 4 0 0 0 Brssrd 1b 0 0 0 0	St. Louis at San Francisco Sunday's games N.V. Mote at Atlanta	Eldred p 0 0 0 0 Graves p 0 0 0 0 MAndn ph 1 0 0 0 JoAvdo p 1 0 0 0 King p 0 0 0 0 O Poppel p 0 0 0 0
tr dh 50 10 WHarrs of 2 10 0 0 1	Munson 3D 2 0 0 0 Gerut rt 4 1 1 0	Houston at Cincinnati Pittsburgh at Milwaukee Philadelphia at Chicago Cubs	Calero p 0 0 0 0 0 JoAvdo p 1 0 0 0 0 King p 0 0 0 0 0 Poppel p 0 0 0 0 0 Isrnghs p 0 0 0 0 0 Hmmel 3b 1 1 0 0 Totals 4611 19 9 Totals 34 10 9 10
### Aby h bit t dh 5010 WHarrs of 2100 siss 4100 Brichrd of 1000 f 4111 Therez of 5023 ulb 4110 Caleel of 5020 rf 5122 Cevrt dh 5020 rf 5021 Knerkolb 4000 sic 4020 Uribe 2b 4010 clc 4020 Uribe 2b 4010 b 2001 Crede 3b 4230	Szmore cf 2 0 1 0	Montreal at Forida Arizona at Colorado Los Angeles at San Diego St. Louis at San Francisco	Simples p 0 0 0 0 0 hmmel 30 11 0 0 Totals 46 111 90 Totals 34 10 9 10 8 10 9 10 8 10 9 10 8 10 9 10 8 10 9 10 8 10 9 10 8 10 9 10 9
4 1 1 1 IPPEREZ IT 5 0 2 3 1 1			Cincinnati 010 060 030-10 E-Casey (5), FLopez (5), Hummel (4).
s rf 5 0 2 1 Knerko 1b 4 0 0 0 e 3b 3 1 1 0 Vientin ss 3 0 0 0 o c 4 0 2 0 Uribe 2b 4 0 1 0 2b 2 0 0 1 Crede 3b 4 2 3 0	Cleveland 10. 101 001 20x-5 E-Csuillen (11). DP-Detroit 2. LOB-Detroit 3, Cleveland 10. 28-Vizquel (19). HR-J-Smith (4), Csuillen (17), Blake (17). SB-Sizemore (1). SF-DYoung. Potenti	Wednesday Expos 7, Mets 4	15, Cincinnati 11. 2B—Renteria (25), Rolen 2 (24), Taguchi (5), Cedeno (5), RSanders 2
2b 1 0 0 0 BDavis c 2 1 1 1		NEW YORK MONTREAL	(18), FLopez (3). HR—Womack (5), Rolen 2 (23), Edmonds (27), Larkin (7), Dunn (28).
Burke c 1 0 1 0	Robertson 6 9 3 2 3 4 JWalker L,1-4 1 2 2 2 0 1 Yan 1 0 0 2 0 Cleveland	ab r h bi ab r h bi Reyes 2b 3 0 2 1 Wlkrsn lf 4 1 0 0 Wright 3b 2 1 1 0 FChyez cf 3 2 2 1	
esota 011 110 000 1-5 igo 002 010 100 0-4	Cleveland Elarton W.1-2 7 6 4 4 1 5 Betancourt 1 0 0 0 0 0 Wickman S.1 1 0 0 0 0 0 T-2:32. A-23,213 (43,389).	MafSul ss 5 1 1 0 Vidro 2b 4 0 0 0 Piazza 1b 4 1 0 0 TBtsta 3b 4 2 2 2	Suppan 42/1 5 6 6 10 2
cago 1. LOB—Minnesota 8, Chicago 6. Momeau (4), HR—LFord (13), THunter	Wickman S,1 1 0 0 0 0 0 0 T-2:32. A-23,213 (43,389).	Hidalgo rf 3 0 0 1 0 Cberass 3 0 2 1 1 Wggntn 3b 3 0 1 0 Sledge rf 3 0 0 0	Eldred W,2-0 2 0 0 0 0 3
Is 37 510 5 Totals 36 4 10 4 sesota 011 110 000 1–5 spo 002 010 100 0–4 Valentin (14), Crede (7), DP—Minnesota icago 1, LOB—Minnesota 8, Chicago 6. Morneau (4), HR—LFord (13), THunter BDavis (1), SB—THunter (12), Liones (7), Valentin (2), Uribe (7). Ford.	Devil Rays 10, Royals 1	Umeron cf 3 0 0 1 Ayala p 0 0 0 0 VWilsn c 2 1 0 0 CCrdro p 0 0 0 0 Yates p 0 0 0 0 Schndr c 4 0 1 2	Isrnghs S,26 12/1 1 0 0 1 2
ocoto	KANSAS CITY TAMPA BAY	Bttlco'p 0 0 0 0 Ar Jr. p 2 0 0 0 Valent ph 1 0 0 0 Crcran p 0 0 0 0	Cincinnati
6'/1 7 4 4 2 1	Grffnno 2b 4 1 0 0 Gthrght If 1 0 0 0 MiSwy 1b 4 0 0 0 Lugo 55 4 1 1 1	Seop 1000 JRivrarr 1000 JPhilps c 2000	GWhite 1 4 2 2 0 0 Riedling 2 3 1 1 0 1
on 1 0 0 2 0 1 1 0 0 2 0 1 1 0 0 0 0 1 1 0 0 0 0	Design Common C	Totals 31 4 6 4 Totals 32 7 8 7 New York 000 040 000-4 Montreal 000 330 10x-7	Graves 1 2 0 0 1 0 King pitched to 3 batters in the 8th. WP— Suppan. Balk—JoAcevedo. T—3:53. A—33,282 (42,271).
ago ra 7 8 4 4 2 5	Diesus cf 4 0 1 0 Cryffred ff 4 1 2 0 Cryffred physics 2 0 1 1 2 0 1 1 2 0 1 2	Expos 7, Mets 4 New York Marie Manager Marie M	
e 1 1 0 0 0 0	Buck c 3 0 0 0 Cantu dn 4 0 2 0 RSnchz 2b 4 1 2 1	(4). HR—TBatista (16). SB—EnChavez (15). S—Seo.	Brewers 6, Cubs 3
va pitched to 3 batters in the 7th, ro pitched to 3 batters in the 7th. by Loaiza (Koskie). WP-CSilva. 7. A-32,605 (40,615).	Totals 32 1 4 1 Totals 39 10 15 10	P	CHICAGO MILWAUKEE abrhbi abrhbi Macias cf 3 0 0 0 Prisdok cf 3 2 2 0
	E-Graffanino (5), Lugo (14). LOB-Kansas City 5, Tampa Bay 7, 2B-Lugo (26), Cantu	Seo L,4-7 4 5 5 5 3 1 Yates 1 2 1 1 1 1 Bottalico 2 1 1 1 1 1 Feliciano 1 0 0 0 0 1	Macias cf 3 0 0 0 Pdsdnk cf 3 2 2 0 TWalkr ph 0 0 0 1 Cunsell ss 4 0 1 0 Leicstr p 0 0 0 0 Jenkins lf 3 0 2 1 Grdzin 2b 4 0 0 0 Brnyan 3b 3 0 0 0
Athletics 3, Mariners 2 TLE OAKLAND	(4), I Hall (10), Hsanchez (11), 3B—RMateo (1), Crawford (16), JoCruz (7), HR—Huff (18), JoCruz (15), TMartinez (14), SF—Luno.	Montreal Armas Jr. 4 ¹ / ₂ 4 4 4 5 3 Corcoran ¹ / ₂ 0 0 0 2 1	
	Kansas City	Armas Ir. 4 ¹ / ₂ 4 4 4 5 3 Corcoran ¹ / ₂ 0 0 0 2 1 Tucker W,1-1 2 ² / ₃ 1 0 0 0 1 Ayala 1 0 0 0 0 2 Cordero S.10 1 1 0 0 0 2	Alou If 4 0 0 0 Grieve rf 4 2 2 1 DeLee 1b 3 1 1 0 Kolb p 0 0 0 0 ARmrz 3b 3 0 1 1 BHall 2b 4 1 1 2 Barrett c 3 1 1 1 Moeller c 4 0 1 0
cf 5 0 1 0 Crosby ss 4 0 0 0	P H RER BB SO	Corcoran '/3 0 0 0 2 1 Tucker W,1-1 2 ² /3 1 0 0 0 1 Ayala 1 0 0 0 0 2 CCordero S,10 1 1 0 0 0 2 Seo pitched to 2 batters in the 5th. HBP-by Armas Jr. (Floyd). Balk—Seo. T—2:59. A—6,652 (46,338).	ARmrz 3b 3 0 1 1 BHall 2b 4 1 1 2 Barrett c 3 1 1 1 Moeller c 4 0 1 0 ASGziz ss 3 1 1 0 Couano p 2 0 1 1
n dh 4 1 1 1 Dye rf 4 0 0 0 z lf 3 0 0 0 Httberg 1b 3 1 0 0 lo 1b 4 0 0 0 Durazo dh 4 0 0 0	Tampa Bay Hndrck W,8-8 9 4 1 0 0 5		Wood n 1 0 0 0 Adams n 0 0 0 0
o1b 4000 Durazodh 4000 :3b 4000 DMiller c 3000 nc 4010 Kielty If 3000		Braves 1, Pirates 0 ATLANTA PITTSBURGH	Wilmyr p 0 0 0 0 Kschnk ph 1 0 0 0 Merckr p 0 0 0 0 Lyzcno p 0 0 0 CPttson cf 1 0 0 0 BClark rf 1 0 0 0 Totals 29 3 5 3 Totals 32 6 10 5
c 4 0 1 0 Kierty IF 3 0 0 0 0 0 0 0 Kotsay ph 1 0 1 1 ss 4 0 0 0 Scutaro 2b 2 1 2 1	Angels 2, Rangers 0		Chicago 010 000 110-3
is 35 2 8 1 Totals 31 3 7 3	TEXAS ANAHEIM ab r h bi MYong ss 4 0 1 0 Eckstin ss 4 1 1 0	Mrrero rf 4 0 1 0 Mckwk rf 4 0 1 0 CJones 3b 2 1 2 1 CWilsn 1b 4 0 2 0	DP—Milwaukee 1. LOB—Chicago 2, Milwaukee 6. 2B—DeLee (32), ASGonzalez (10). Jen-
ls 35 2 8 1 Totals 31 3 7 3 tle 011 000 000-2	MYong ss 40 10 Ekstin ss 41 10	MGiles 2b 3 0 0 0 JWilsn ss 5 0 2 0 Mrrero rf 4 0 1 0 Mckwk rf 4 0 1 0 Clones 3b 2 1 2 1 CWilsn 1b 4 0 2 0 JuFro 1b 3 0 0 0 Bay lf 4 0 2 0 JuFro ab r 0 0 0 0 TRimp cf 4 0 2 0	DP-Milwaukee 1. LOB-Chicago 2, Milwau- kee 6. 2B-DeLee (32), ASGonzalez (10), Jen- kins (24), Grieve (13), Capuano (2). HR-Bar- rett (12), Grieve (6), BHall (7). SB-Podsednik (41) SE: TMalker, London.
Is 35 2 8 1 Totals 31 3 7 3 at le 3 1 3 2 8 1 Totals 31 3 7 3 at le 3 1 3 2 8 1 Totals 31 3 7 3 and 000 100 010 011 3 out when winning run scored. Byrnes (2). DP—Seattle I. LOB—Seattle kland 7: 28—BBoone (18). HR—Jacobsen	MYONG S MADE MADE MYONG S	Milles 2D 3 0 0 0 0 0 0 0 0 0 0 0 0 0 0 0 0 0 0	DP-Milwaukee 1. LOB-Chicago 2, Milwaukee 6. 2B-DeLee (32), ASGonzalez (10), Jenkins (24), Grieve (13), Capuano (2), HR-Barrett (12), Grieve (6), Bhall (7). SB-Podsednik (41). SF-TWalker, Jenkins. IP H RER BB SO
-Byrnes (2), DP-Seattle 1, LOB-Seattle akland 7, 2B-BBoone (18), HR-Jacobsen Byrnes (14), Scutaro (3), IP H RER BB SO	MYONG SS AND HE MYONG SS A 1 10	ATLANTA abr 1 il PITTSBURGH DeRosa St. 9 il 0 il Kendali cab f h bi Midiles 2b	DP – MINWalikee 1. 108 – Chicago 2, Minwalikee 6, 28 – Dethe (32), A Solomazilez (10), Jenkins (24), Grieve (13), Capulano (24), HR – Barrett (12), Grieve (6), Bhall (7), S8 – Podsednik (41), SF – TWalker, Jenkins, Ph. RER BB SO Chicago Wood 1,5-4 6 7 5 5 2 10 Wood 1,5-4 6 7 5 5 2 10 Wood 1,5-4 6 7 5 5 2 10
E-Byrnes (2), DP-Seattle 1, LOB-Seattle Oakland 7, 2B-BBoone (18), HR-Jacobsen , Byrnes (14), Scutaro (3). IP H RER BB SO	TEXAS Whyongs A 1 0 Existing S 1 1	NGreen ph 1 0 0 0 Simon 1b 1 0 0 0	DP—Minvaukee 1. LD8—Chicago Z. Minvaukee 6. 28—Detec (22), ASGoralize (10), Jenkins (24), Grieve (13), Capuano (2). HR—Barrett (12), Grieve (18), Gapuano (2). HR—Barrett (12), Grieve (16), Bild (17), S8—Podsedille (41), 37—TWalker, Jerkins H. RER 88 SO-Chicago Wood L5-4 6 7 5 5 2 10 Wellemeyer ² / ₂ 2 1 1 0 2 Mercker ² / ₃ 0 0 0 1 1 Leicoster 1 1 0 0 0 0
:-Byrnes (2). DP-Seattle 1. LOB-Seattle Jakland 7.28-B8bone (18). HR-Jacobsen , Byrnes (14), Scutaro (3). 19 H RER BB SO 10 Segawa	TEXAS Why No S 40 0 0 0 0 0 0 0 0	NGreen ph 1 0 0 0 Simon 1b 1 0 0 0	UP - Bilivaturee 1 1.09 - Chicago 2 Manusari Kins (24), Grieve (13), Capjaan (2), Hie - Bar- rett (12), Grieve (6), Birlall (7), 58 - Podsednik (41), SF - TWalker, Jenkins. P H RER BS 50 Chicago P H RER BS 50 Wellemeyer / ₇ 2 1 1 0 2 Wellemeyer / ₇ 2 1 1 0 0 0 0 Mercker / ₇ 0 0 1 1 Leicester / ₇ 0 0 0 1 1 Leicester / ₇ 0 0 0 1 1 Leicester / ₇ 0 0 0 1 0 1
E-Byrnes (2), DP-Seattle 1, LOB-Seattle Ookland 7, 2B-BBoone (18), HR-Jacobsen), Byrnes (14), Scutaro (3). IP H RER BB SO	Myong ss Maprib Middle M	Miller of 2 00 0 0 0 0 0 0 0 0 0 0 0 0 0 0 0 0 0	UP - Billyadarde 1. US-2-Chicago 2. Manwal- kins (24), Grieve (13), Capiano (7), Bill-Bar- rett (12), Grieve (6), Birlall (7), SB-Podsednik (41), SF-TWalker, Jenkins. Physical (14), SF-TWalker, Jenkins. Physical (14), SF-TWalker, Jenkins. Physical (15), Birland (15),

Atlanta		r n	KEN	ВВ	3	U	Astros	6,	Dia			cks	1	
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ell (5). CS-AG	onzale	ź (1).		,.			Clemens W,1 Oliver	12-3	- 3		1	1	3	1
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by Worrell (36,331).							ShGren rf	3 0	10	Burnit	z lf	- 7	1 2	
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(24), Taguchi	(5), C	-Rente	ria (25 (5), RS), Roi ande	en	2	Pa	dre	s 9	, Giai	ıts	4		
E-Casey (! DP-St. Louis 15, Cincinnati (24), Taguchi (18), FLopez ((23), Edmond	(3). HR-	-Woma	ick (5)	, Rol	en	2	SAN FRANCIS	SCO		SAN D	IEG0			
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Baseball calendar

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Aug. 18-19 - Owners meeting, Philadelhla." Oct 5 — Playoffs begin. Oct 12 — League championship series

egin. Oct. 23 — World Series begins, city of AL

Nov. 9-12. General managers meetings. Nov. 9-12. General managers meetings. Key Biscayne, Flu. Nov. Biscayne, Flu. Flu. State of the state of the sales representation of the sales cancer for the sales Local Capital — Winter meetings, Anaheim. Calif. 20-13 — Winter meetings with a sales Calif. 20-13 — Winter meetings. Calif. 20-13 — Wint

Ortiz gets 100th win vs. Pirates

By ALAN ROBINSON The Associated Press

PITTSBURGH - Oliver Perez earned substantial praise from both dugouts. Russ Ortiz got something even better: his 100th major league victory

Ortiz shut out Pittsburgh for seven innings to win his sixth in a row and Chipper Jones homered for Atlanta's only run off Perez, leading the Braves past the Pirates 1-0 Wednesday night.

The game matched two streaking pitchers in Ortiz and Perez, neither of whom had lost since test teams. The Braves have won

21 of 28, the Pirates 21 of 29 Ortiz (12-6) improved to 7-0 against Pittsburgh in 10 career starts despite allowing at least one baserunner in every inning The Pirates had nine hits off Ortiz and 11 overall, only to strand 11 runners after scoring 36 runs in their previous five games

"If you had told me I'd be able to get 100 wins in the big leagues I didn't know how long I would even last," Ortiz said.

"I just feel very fortunate. I've been on some good teams that gave me an opportunity to win like tonight, somebody had to do something for us to win and Chip-

per came up with the home run The left-handed Perez (6-5), fast developing into one of the NL's best starters, was more in command than Ortiz except for one pitch — Jones' 14th homer, a solo shot to left field with one out in the fourth.

"When a guy's throwing as



Atlanta's Russ Ortiz beat Pittsburgh 1-0 Wednesday night for his 100th major league victory.

good as that kid was, you hope for more but you know that may hold up," Braves manager Bobby Cox said. "I'm sure that was what Russ was thinking."

He was

"I think everyone sensed it was going to be tough to score more runs." Ortiz said, "When he's on, he's a very tough guy to hit

Except for the homer, Perez didn't allow a runner to reach second until Eli Marrero tripled in the ninth. Perez struck out 10 and walked five in 81/3 innings in his sixth double-digit strikeout game this season and 11th of his career Perez's average of 10.9 strikeouts per nine innings leads the majors.

"I certainly am glad we had Russ on the mound for this matchup because you had to know that guy (Perez) wasn't going to give up too many runs," Jones said. "He's the closest thing to Randy Johnson you'll see. He's a gem. He's only 22 years old and he's still developing, but he can throw it 97 miles per hour and he's got a developing changeup."

Reds fall again to Cards

CINCINNATI - Walking 13 batters, blowing a seven-run lead and giving up a grand slam, the St. Louis Cardinals did just about everything they could to lose.

Then again, the Cardinals seem to beat the Cincinnati Reds no matter what happens.

Scott Rolen hit two of the Cardinals' four homers and visiting St Louis beat the Reds 11-10 Wednesday night for its 11th win in 13 games against Cincinnati.

"This game was no fun," Rolen said. "There was too much going on. I'm going to forget about it when I fall asleep on that plane

Rolen will probably wake up happy in San Francisco, knowing Cardinals are the best road team in baseball at 34-16 - even better than their 31-20 mark at

Jim Edmonds homered in all three games of the series sweep that gave the Cardinals - 42-14 since May 17 — an 11-game lead over Chicago in the NL Central.

St. Louis starter Jeff Suppan walked a career-high 10 in 42/3 innings of the game that took 3 hours, 55 minutes — the longest nine-inning game of the season for both tea

Astros 6. Diamondbacks 1: Roger Clemens (12-3) struck out eight and allowed one run in seven innings, leading host Houston over reeling Arizona for his 322nd victory.

Jeff Kent hit a two-run homei

in the third and Jeff Bagwell followed with a solo shot.

Arizona lost for the 16th time in 17 games. Marlins 6. Phillies 3: Hee Seop

St. Louis third baseman Scott Rolen prepares to throw out Cincinnati's Jason LaRue after fielding a grounder in the second inning Wednesday.

Choi hit a tiebreaking three-run homer in the eighth and Florida winning its against the Phillies in Miami to 13 games, including six this year.

Expos 7. Mets 4: Tony Batista homered and drove in two runs and Nick Johnson hit a go-ahead RRI double in the fifth to lift the host Expos over New York.

Brewers 6, Cubs 3: Chris Capuano (5-5) pitched effectively into the seventh inning and Bill Hall and Ben Grieve homered to help host Milwaukee snap a

four-game losing streak

Kerry Wood (5-4) allowed season highs of five runs and seven hits in six innings.

Rockies 5, Dodgers 4: Aaron Miles hit a tiebreaking single off Guillermo Mota (8-4) in the eighth and Jeromy Burnitz homered in his sixth straight home game to tie a team record leading Colorado over visiting Los Ange-

Padres 9, Giants 4: Sean Burroughs had a two-run single and Ryan Klesko added a two-run double in a five-run sixth, lifting the host Padres over San Francisco.

Ibis Tek







The Ibis Tek Ram Bumper attached to the front of the vehicle easily push objects in its path without any damage being done to the Ram Bumper existing vehicle parts are easily damaged some critical cooling components of the vehicle. With the Ram Bumpe cel the MBMWV can easily "push" it's way through barriers o clously put in front of the HBMWV.



Safety net goes up in Wrigley

CHICAGO - Workers at Wrigley Field put up heavy mesh net-ting to protect fans from falling chunks of concrete.

City officials can postpone Friday's game against Philadelphia if the netting isn't fully installed or if they conclude it doesn't adequately protect fans, Chicago Department of Buildings spokesman Jack Beary said. There have been three reports

of falling concrete at the stadium since June. No injuries have been reported

SAN FRANCISCO - Former San Francisco Giants pitcher Ruben Gomez, who won baseball's first regular-season game on the West Coast, has died. He

Gomez died Monday in San Juan, Puerto Rico, the Giants said. The team said he had been ill for a long period.

Gomez started the first game in San Francisco history, beating Don Drysdale and the visiting Los Angeles Dodgers 8-0 on April 15, 1958. The teams moved from New York after the 1957 season.



The right-hander was 76-86 with a 4.09 ERA for the Giants, Philadelphia, Cleveland and Min-MIAMI - Florida Marlins closnesota. He pitched from 1953-62,

and then returned to make seven relief appearances for the Phillies in 1967, when he was the oldest player in the majors at 39. Frickson out in New York

MONTREAL - The New York designated right-hander Scott Erickson for assignment on Wednesday. Erickson went 0-1 with a 7.88 ERA for the Mets in two starts, including a disastrous outing in Monday's 19-10 loss to the Expos.

"He was on a short leash," Mets General Manager Jim Duquette said.

Mets suspend Spencer

MONTREAL - Shane Spencer was suspended without pay by the New York Mets on Wednesday, one day after he was arrested by the Florida Highway Patrol and charged with driving under the influence

at the Mets' minor league facility in Port St. Lucie, was stopped for driving 96 mph in a 70 mph speed zone on I-95 in St. Lucie County.

Marlins' Benitez ailing

er Armando Benitez might be sidelined until next week because of inflammation in his pitching elbow. Benitez has 33 saves and is 2-1 with a 1.25 ERA.

Wagner faces exam on arm

MIAMI — Closer Billy Wagner traveled back to Philadelphia on Wednesday to have his sore left shoulder examined by team physician Dr. Michael Ciccotti. The Phillies closer complained of stiffness in the shoulder, which has sidelined him the past week. The left-hander is 3-0 with 16 saves, a 3.12 ERA and 46 strikeouts in 34 2-3 innings.

Tigers put Knotts on DL

CLEVELAND - The Detroit Tigers placed right-hander Gary Knotts on the 15-day disabled list with a sore shoulder Wednesday, one day after he allowed seven runs in 21/3 innings in a loss to

Stupples shoots 65, leads major in England

BY ROBERT MILLWARD

SUNNINGDALE, England — Karen Stupples of England made seven birdies in a bogey-free round of 65 on Thursday to take a two-shot lead after the first round of the Women's British Open.

Jung Yeon Lee eagled the first hole and finished with two birds to shoot 67. Defending champion Annika Sorenstam, Scotland's Catriona Matthew, 21-year-old American Natalie Gulbis and Minea Blomqvist shot 68 and are three behind the leader.

Beth Daniel, Cristie Kerr and Lorena Ochoa are among a large group that shot 69.

Sorenstam, pursuing her eighth major and second this season, took advantage of warm, windless conditions at Sunningdale.

She birdied the second and third holes and, after bogeys on the fourth and sixth, birdied Nos. 7 and 9 before playing the back nine in 2-under 34

Sorenstam's iron play was precise; the longest of her seven birdie putts was 9 feet.

"I'm very happy with my 68," Sorenstam said. "The greens were pure and they were really good scoring conditions. Just a re-

ally good start, I thought."
Sorenstam won the Women's
British Open last year at Royal
Lytham and St. Annes to complete
the career Grand Slam. She successfully defended her LPGA
Championship title in June for
her seventh major victory and has
four LPGA Tour victories this
year to push her career total to \$2.

The Swedish star has a chance this week to win all four major championships twice in a row, a

Big Mac eaten up in Western Am

The Associated Press

BENTON TOWNSHIP, Mich. — It certainly wasn't a home run for Mark McGwire on Wednesday.

The former slugger made his debut in major amateur golf with a 12-over 82 in the 102nd Western Amateur, leaving him 17 strokes behind the leaders and tied for 152nd in the field of 156.

"I feel like a rookie playing in his first major league game, very much so," McGwire said at the Point O'Woods Golf and Country Club. "I have a long way to go to play with these guys."

McGwire is a long shot to make the cut after Thursday's second round, which pares the field to 64 for match play.

"I love to watch these guys play," McGwire said. "They can really get up and down and they consistently make good shots. I was kind of in awe of them."



American Natalie Gulbis, who has one top-10 finish in 16 events this year, shot a bogey-free 68 Thursday in the Women's British Open.

feat accomplished only by Mickey Wright (1958-59 U.S. Open, '60-61 LPGA Championship, '61-62 Titleholders and '62-63 Western Open).

Meg Mallon, who outplayed Sorenstam in the final round to win the U.S. Open, made bogey, double-bogey on Nos. 10 and 11 and shot 75

Juli Inkster, also playing with Sorenstam and Mallon, finished with two bogey for a 1-under 71. Gulbis, who is chasing her first victory in 2½ years on the LPGA Tour, had a bogey-free 68.

Matthew, who tied for third and aced the 15th when the championship was at Sunningdale three years ago, made five birdies.

Coyotes make an offer to Hull

PHOENIX — The Phoenix Coyotes have made a two-year contract offer to right wing Brett Hull.

"We have a genuine interest, we've made a serious and substantive offer, and we're awaiting his reply," Coyotes General Manager

ports
Mike Barnett said Wednesday.
Barnett is Brett Hull's former
agent, and Wayne Gretzky, the
Coyotes managing partner, is a

agent, and Wayne Gretzky, the Coyotes managing partner, is a close friend of Hull.

Hull's agent, and younger brother, Bobby Hull

Jr., confirmed the Coyotes are a major player in landing Hull.

"If you know the relationship between Brett and Wayne Gretzky, and Brett and Mike Barnett, you know what a great fit this would be," Bobby Hull Jr. said.

Hull, who will turn 40 next month, had 25 goals and 68 points last year for Detroit, his 18th NHL season. He ranks third in career goals with 741.

In other NHL news Wednesday, the Detroit Red Wings re-signed defenseman Mathieu Dandenault to a one-year contract worth \$1.6 million, General Manager Ken Holland said.

Agassi ousted in Masters Canada

TORONTO — Andre Agassi was upset by Jurgen Melzer of Austria 6-3, 6-3 Thursday in the second round of the \$2.5 million Masters Canada tennis tournament.

Top-seeded Roger Federer topped Robin Soderling 7-5, 6-1 in a second-round match. On Wednesday night, Andy Roddick beat French

qualifier Julien Benneteau 6-4, 6-2 to reach the second round. Four seeded players lost Wednesday: No. 8 Rainer Schuettler, No. 12 Sebastien Grosjean, No. 13

Nicolas Massu and No. 15 Marat Safin

No. 2 seed Mauresmo upset in California

CARLSBAD, Calif. — Alicia Molik used a dominating serve to upset second-seeded Amelie Mauresmo 7-5, 3-6, 6-3 Wednesday in the second round of the Acura Classic.

Molik, unseeded and ranked 29th in the world, lost just two points on five service games and none in the last three.

in the last three.

Fourth-seeded Lindsay Davenport won the final
nine games to beat Karolina Sprem 6-4, 6-0.

Trojans favored to win Pac-10 title

LOS ANGELES — Defending national champion Southern California was the unanimous choice to repeat as Pac-10 champ in preseason media balloting, the first time a team received all the first-place votes since the conference expanded to 10 teams in 1978.

California, the only team to beat USC last year, finished second in the preseason voting. Oregon (192 points) was picked to finish third and was followed by Oregon State (138), Washington State (133), Arizona State (131), Washington (100), UCLA (98), Stanford (40) and Arizona (38).

Meanwhile, USC coach Pete Carroll believes a decision from the NCAA on wide receiver Mike Williams' eligibility will come within a couple of weeks.

Hamilton Jr. to replace Craven in 2005

HICKORY, N.C. — PPI Motorsports has signed Bobby Hamilton Jr. to replace Maine's Ricky Craven as driver of the No. 32 Chevrolet in the 2005 NASCAR Nextel Cup series.

Hamilton races full-time in the Busch Series for Team Rensi Motorsports and has five career victories. He finished fourth last season and is currently eighth in the Busch standings.





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Gaffe in Bryant case reveals evidence

BY JON SARCHE

DENVER — In a sealed document mistakenly posted on a court Web site, the judge in the Kobe Bryant rape case said hospital tests performed on the basketball star found his accuser's DNA — but none from an unidentified person whose DNA showed up on other evi-

dence.

Bryant's lawyers could use the findings at his upcoming trial to bolster their claim that the woman had sex with men other than Bryant during the week of the alleged attack. They had succeeded earlier this month in getting District Judge Terry Ruckriegle to throw out the same results on grounds that investigators didn't have the proper court order to take Bryant to the hospital in the middle of the

night.

In his filing, Ruckriegle said the prosecution does not intend to introduce the same details and he ordered both sides to come up with an arreement by Friday.

Bryant's attorneys have said they believe the 20-year-old woman had multiple sex partners in the three days before her hospital exam last summer, including one after her encounter with Bryant. The woman's attorney has denied that she had sex soon after the alleged assault

Bryant has pleaded not guilty to felony sexual assault, saying he had consensual sex with the woman at the Vail-area resort where she worked last summer. If convicted, the Los Angeles Lakers' star faces four years to life prison or 20 years to life on probation, and a

fine up to \$750,000.

The court order, which included the accuser's last name, appeared Wednesday on a Web site where public filings have been posted for months as a convenience to court staff

and the media.

The site was shut down for about three

hours to remove the document.
State courts spokeswoman Karen Salaz said
the mistake stemmed from a new posting procedure and that a clerk chose the wrong document to post without a "critical safeguard" in
place. The state court administrator plans to
apologize to the accuser and her family and is
weighing unspecified actions involving staff,

The posting was the latest in a string of mistakes that the accuser's attorney, John Clune, has said prompted her to consider dropping out of the case. He declined to comment about his client's resolve to continue her participa-

"It is inconceivable how this court can explain its continual pattern of revictimizing this 20-year-old girl," Clune said in a written statement Wednesday. "This judge must learn that the trust that a victim places in the judiciary is the foundation for the courage that all victims must have to endure the brutal nature of rape prosecutions." Clune has asked Ruckriegle to halt use of

Clune has asked Ruckriegle to halt use of the Internet and e-mail to distribute information about the case. The judge has not ruled on the request.

In September, the woman's name was included in another filing on the Web site that was quickly removed. Last fall, the Glenwood Springs hospital where she and Bryant were examined accidentally turned over her medical records to attorneys in the case.

Ruckriegle is expected to talk with attorneys in the case during a hearing Friday about what information should be redacted before the documents are released.

Stojakovic won't play in Athens

The Associated Press

Peja Stojakovic said Wednesday he will not play for Serbia and Montenegro in the Athens Olympics, depriving the defending world champions of their best perimeter scorer.

The three-time NBA All-Star said he was tired and that his decision is irreversible — even though

> NBA briefs

even though people in his homeland are urging him to change his mind.

"No way. I already spoke with the team officials. We talked about it, and it's done," Stojakovic told The Associated Press in a telephone interview. "I'm not going to go."

Stojakovic will be in Greece during the Olympics, fulfilling the end of a three-month stint in the Greek army. He holds duel citizenship in Greece and Serbia

and Montenegro.
Stojakovic said he planned to
watch the Games with friends
from the beach in Thessaloniki,
where he keeps a home. Stojakovic's girlfriend, who also lives
there, is expecting a baby in two
to three weeks.

"I've played for the national team for six years," he said. "Every summer there is something going on — the world championships, the European championship, the Olympics. I just felt tired."

The absence of Stojakovic could hurt Serbia and Montenegro's chances for a medal.

Serbia and Montenegro, Spain and Lithuania are considered among the top European contenders to advance in the medal round.

"I don't know what kind of chances they'll have," Stojakovic said. "I wish them the best and I'm hoping for the best."

Heat re-sign Rasual Butler

MIAMI — The Miami Heat gave Shaquille O'Neal some frontcourt help Wednesday by re-signing free agent forward Rasual Butler.

Butler, a 6-foot-7 small forward and a second-round draft pick in 2002, averaged 6.8 points and 1.4 rebounds in 45 games last season. He also led the team in three-point field goal percentage (.463). He has averaged 7.2 points, 2.1

He has averaged 7.2 points, 2.1 rebounds, 1.0 assists in two seasons with the Heat.

With Caron Butler having been involved in the blockbuster trade with the Los Angeles Lakers for O'Neal, Rasual Butler became a projected starter for the Heat alongside guards Dwyane Wade and Eddie Jones.

Nets sign free agent guards Vaughn, Buford

NEWARK, N.J. — The New Jersey Nets signed free agent guards Jacque Vaughn and Rodney Buford on Thursday.

The Nets hope Yaughn can provide productive minutes off the bench to give Jason Kidd time to rest. Kidd is recovering from knee surgery.



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SPORTS

More history for Percival

Closer earns 300th save with Angels

The Associated Pres

ANAHEIM, Calif. — Troy Percival and John Lackey teamed up for another history-making night for the Anaheim Angels.

Percival earned his 300th career save, and Lackey allowed three hits in 8½ innings, leading Anaheim to a 2-0 victory over the Texas Rangers on Wednesday night

They also collaborated in Game 7 of the 2002 World Series, with Lackey getting the win and Percival closing it out to secure the Angels' first championship.

"It's just an honor to be inting to 300," Lackey said. "He's such a professional and such a great guy to play with. I have no idea how many of my games he's closed out, but most of the time when he comes in, it's pretty much over."

much over."

Percival became the 18th member of the 300-save club, striking out Alfonso Soriano and getting Mark Teixeira to ground out to end the game. The right-hander was hugged by first baseman Darin Erstad, and then catcher Bengie Mollina before the entire team congratulated him near the mound.

"All of us know it is a pretty good milestone—I mean, only 18 people have done it thus far," Percival said. "I was out there when my teammates needed me 300 times, and I'm real proud of that. It was good to get it out of the way so that we could just concentrate on winning ballgames."

As he walked off the field, Percival waved to the crowd just before walking into the dugout. A video montage of his career highlights was also played on the scoreboard.

Once inside the clubhouse, he was toasted by his teammates with cups of beer instead of the usual champagne that's brought out for such an occasion.

"To the greatest closer we know, without question," injured pitcher Jarrod Washburn said.

Moments later, Percival posed for a group picture holding a baseball with "300" on it. Surrounding him were Lackey, Washburn and the rest of the relievers. Percival then looked at setup man Francisco Rodriguez and handed him the ball.

"Frankie, you definitely have to get in here for this one, because I'm going to be back here for your 300th." Percival said.

Despite his second save in two



Anaheim Angels pitcher Troy Percival works in the ninth inning against the Texas Rangers at Anaheim Stadium on Wednesday. The Angels beat the Rangers 2-0 and Percival earned his 300th career save.

nights, Percival's milestone required a long wait. It was only his fourth opportunity to close a game since June 1. He spent two weeks on the disabled list because of inflammation in his

The four-time All-Star recorded his first big league save on

July 14, 1995, at Detroit. He had a career-high 42 in 1998 and became the Angels career saves leader on June 20, 1999, when he eclipsed Bryan Harvey's mark of 126

"Early in my career, 300 saves was the only goal I had — if I could be around long enough to

get it," Percival said. "Ithought to myself, if I could get 300, I'd feel like I'd accomplished something — especially knowing that Goose Gossage, one of my favorite players of all time, had over 300. But I hadn't thought about it again until this year."

SEE SAVE ON PAGE 31



Sorenstam shares early lead in Women's British Open

Page 34



Stewart tries to shake off trouble with strong finishes

Page 29



More evidence in Bryant case mistakenly posted online

Page 35

